

Firemen are sick to their stomachs of going into blackened bedrooms to bring out charred bodies of men, women and especially children



Chief Fire Officer Fuller calling for action yesterday

By David Sapsted

Fire chiefs yesterday called for an urgent meeting with Mrs Margaret Thatcher to press for a complete ban on the use of deadly types of polyurethane foam in furniture at the end of this year.

Leaders of the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association, who have been campaigning for more than 15 years for tough controls, branded as "nonsense" the Government's proposed code of practice on the use of the foam.

The foam gives off toxic fumes when burning and has already been responsible for the deaths of 10 children this year.

The fire chiefs also criticized successive Labour and Conservative governments for failing to take effective action.

Mr Brian Fuller, West Midlands chief officer and president of the association, said: "Firemen the length and breadth of the UK, particularly in our big cities, are sick to their stomachs of going into blackened bedrooms and bringing out the charred bodies of men, women and, especially, children."

"It has gone beyond anything we can stand. It really has to stop and it has to stop now. It is not about politics or finance. It is simply our concern that we must stop this awful carnage as a matter of urgency."

The call for government action was echoed at a funeral service in Merthyr Tydfil yesterday when four children, the eldest aged six, and their father were buried after a fire at their home on New Year's day.

The Rev Bill Morgan told hundreds of mourners: "Ten young people have died over the holiday period and we must, as a community, say enough is enough. Legislation should be enacted immediately with regard to the installation of smoke detectors in our homes and with regard to the design and manufacture of furniture and soft fittings."

At least 300 people a year die in Britain as a result of carbon

New King's Cross fire..... 22

monoxide and hydrogen cyanide fumes given off by the highly-inflammable polyurethane.

Under the fire officers' proposals, the ban on standard and high-resilience foams would be accompanied by a huge govern-

ment programme to get every household to install smoke detectors.

New laws proposed by the fire chiefs, who said they had called their first press conference because of government failures to respond to their campaign for tougher measures, would also mean that manufacturers and retailers who continued to sell the dangerous foam from January 1 next would face imprisonment.

Mr Fuller, supported by chief officers from London, Manchester and Scotland, and representatives from consumer groups, safety organizations, research groups and, at least, the Home Office, also accused the Department of Trade and Industry of only listening to the demands of the furniture manufacturers in drawing up the

proposed code, which would still allow the dangerous foams to be sold under fire-resistant covers.

Mr Francis Maude, Minister for Consumer Affairs, had been "very badly advised", Mr Fuller said. He called for all matters relating to fire safety to be transferred to the Home Office, which is responsible for the fire services.

Mr Gerald Clarkson, London's chief fire officer, added: "I am absolutely appalled at the loss of life that need not take place."

Mr Fuller also made the "offer, not a challenge" to Mr Maude publicly to debate the government legislative proposals. He said he had written to the Prime Minister because "this matter is so serious that really it needs someone in the centre, and it really can only be her,

to cut through the red tape and get some action."

The fire officers were backed by Sir Kenneth Holland, formerly the government's Chief Inspector of Fire Services, and by experts from such organizations as the British Standards Institution, the Fire Protection Association, the Consumers' Association, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and the Fire Research Station.

Mr Colin Christopher, general secretary of the Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union, accused the Department of Trade and Industry of being involved in "a conspiracy" with the furniture manufacturers in drawing up the code of practice.

Continued on page 22, col 1

Security forces lose control of crowd

Thatcher press chief jostled by Nigerians

From Robin Oakley, Kano

Security forces in the northern Nigerian city of Kano yesterday lost control of a crowd and caused pandemonium among Mrs Thatcher's party during the final day of her African trip.

The incident occurred before the start of a spectacular *durbur* (court ceremonial) staged for the Prime Minister by Alhaji Ado Babero, the Emir of Kano.

Diplomats and 10 Downing Street staff, who were trying to climb up the steps to the Emir's box behind Mrs Thatcher, were jostled and roughly up by screaming security men in a confusion of command between palace authorities, Lagos officials, army and police.

The situation swiftly deteriorated into a dangerous and violent mêlée. Security men and women pitched in seemingly without discrimination. Mrs Thatcher was not near the scene of the battle and was not involved in it.

But Mr Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's press secretary, suffered particularly brutal treatment. He said afterwards: "I got a rifle butt in the guts."

The burly Yorkshireman had been caught in the middle of a vicious mêlée. Police barred his way with rifles and tried to fling him aside. But

Mr Ingham gritted his teeth and barged his way through.

Looking dishevelled, he added: "I shall be all right soon."

As fists flailed, other members of her staff and reporters tried to fight their way through. More police and security men and women pitched into the battle.

Mr Charles Powell, the Prime Minister's principal private secretary, had a ferocious

Moscow — A dispatch from London in the main Soviet youth paper, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, informs its readers that Mrs Thatcher's subjugation "the Iron Lady" has now been forgotten. (Christopher Walker writes). "What has changed?" writes Yuri Sagal-dak. "I think the international rules of the game have changed and Thatcher, being a fine politician, has considered and adopted these changes."

African bridgehead..... 3

row with a woman security guard in a bright yellow dress. Halfway up the steps, she tried to bar the way to all-comers.

Mr Powell shouted: "These are the Prime Minister's staff. Those girls are her secretaries. They must come through."

But the woman was adamant. She said: "They do not." Mr Powell held down her hand, which was barring the way, and some of them got through.

Angry she turned on Mr Powell and said: "Let go of my arm at once." This he did.

Three women secretaries, who had been frightened earlier by a hostile section in the crowd, beating on their vehicles with sticks, were reduced to tears.

Finally, everybody managed to get through at the expense of some bruising, torn shirts and cut ankles.

The troops involved had clearly been badly briefed. They were screaming "keep out, keep out" to people with passes authorizing them to get in.



Mr Bernard Ingham: Hit "in the guts" by a rifle butt.

The *durbur*, held on a dusty concourse outside the Emir's ancient palace, was an astonishing pageant of blazing colour — even with the normal contingent of 10,000 horsemen reduced to 3,000.

The Prime Minister was greeted by a richly dressed parade of courtiers, warriors and other horsemen, their headgear, regalia and horses' gold and silver decorations worth thousands of pounds each.

Salutes were fired by ancient muskets, acrobats did the splits, horsemen and camel riders, brandished spears and blew horns up to 10 ft long, while drums throbbed out warlike rhythms.

Mrs Thatcher, who was captivated by the spectacle, was escorted to a high-backed chair under a huge golden umbrella in the Emir's audience chamber.

The Kano crowds, several hundred thousand strong, were generally welcoming, but there was again a contingent of parading placards protesting against Mrs Thatcher's attitude on South African sanctions.

Slogans included "Thatcher Devil" and "Thatcher, Chief of Thieves" — a reference to Britain's granting of temporary asylum to the former Nigerian politician, Mr Umaru Dikko, wanted in Nigeria for trial on corruption charges.

Where the crowds pushed forward to see her, police sometimes beat back adults and children with whips.

The Prime Minister's visit to Kano had been in doubt until the last minute because of the dust storm caused by the *harmattan* (Saharan wind) which had prevented aircraft landing for three days.

The Downing Street party was not hopeful of getting through and had been prepared to fly back to Lagos, refuel and fly on to London.

But a Nigerian Air Force Hercules landed at Kano first, somewhat forcing their hand, and the Prime Minister's RAF VC10, piloted by Squadron Leader John Snell and Flying Officer Paul Atherton, landed successfully first time.

A huge success in Kenya was followed by a less auspicious visit to Lagos, where there were demonstrations on the sanctions issue.

Mrs Thatcher generally won a warm welcome, but both President Moi of Kenya and President Babangida of Nigeria lectured her on the British Government's policy toward South Africa and agreed to differ on the methods of tackling apartheid.

And package tour companies are eagerly expanding their holiday programmes to the United States so that British tourists can take full advantage of the fall in the dollar while airline seats are still available.

The collapse in the currency coincides with the slackest time of year for transatlantic airlines and also for hotels in many American destinations, including New York.

Thomson Holidays, who normally



Iran's growing new force of women volunteers parading in Tehran with AK-47 assault rifles.

Iran turns to women warriors

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Young Iranian women armed with automatic rifles and dressed in the traditional *chador* have begun appearing in increased numbers at military parades and exercises, as Iran experiences increased difficulties in obtaining enough manpower for a long awaited new Gulf War offensive.

They are said to have volunteered for service with the *Basji* (mobilization) forces and will probably be used for guard duties, to enable men to be released for combat service.

Meanwhile, Mr Frank Caruana, the new US Defence Secretary, said on a trip to the Gulf yesterday that the nature of the Iranian threat to Gulf shipping had changed in recent months, implying a revision of the US naval presence was possible.

Eastern America crippled by snow

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

A massive snow storm that crippled the south-eastern United States swept up the East Coast yesterday, blanketing the nation's capital and shutting down federal government offices.

The snow and cold have been blamed for at least 45 deaths since last Saturday. Before it reached the East Coast, the storm deposited more than a foot of snow in the south, leaving thousands without electrical power.

By yesterday, snow stretched from eastern Kansas to the Atlantic coast, with 10in in parts of Alabama, more than a foot in Tennessee and Mississippi, 16in in North Carolina and Georgia, and 18in in South Carolina.

Yesterday morning more than a foot of snow fell in parts of Maryland and Delaware, and Washington — where 340,000 government workers

Wall St report urges reform

From Bailey Morris, Washington

A presidential commission studying the stock market crash of Black Monday yesterday recommended creating a "super agency" to unify the regulation of US financial markets, which are undergoing the closest scrutiny since the 1930s.

Also proposed is the setting up of controversial minimum daily limits on movements of share prices and stock index

figures to bolster weaknesses in the system exposed by the worst one-day share price plunge in US history. On Black Monday Wall Street prices fell 508 points.

But even before the release of the report, White House officials attempted to play down its significance. President Reagan has no immediate plans to request specific reforms, according to Mr Mar-

lin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman. He said the Brady report was only one of several under way and the Administration would wait to review all of them before taking any decisions.

Congress will launch its own investigation of the market crash by February 2 when the Senate begins four days of hearings.

Crash report, page 19.

Minister tells nurses 'you won't lose pay'

By Jill Sherman and Ian Smith

The Government pledged yesterday that no nurses would lose out under proposals to cut special duty payments for unsocial hours as union officials warned of a national one-day strike.

Mr Tony Newton, the Minister for Health, accused unions of misleading nurses about the allowances over which 38 nurses, all members of the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe), went on strike for 12 hours at North Manchester General Hospital on Thursday night.

Mr Newton said that any reduction in the payments had to be considered against the introduction of a clinical grading structure that would reward staff with extra skills and qualifications.

He said: "The aim is to improve the pay, career and grading structures of nurses, not to attack nurses in any way."

However, health service unions claim that some nurses could lose £40 a week if a flat rate payment of £1.20 for working nights, weekends and bank holidays is introduced, and that a one-day protest might be considered.

Mr Newton said that the

proposals on special duty payments were still being discussed by the Nurses and Midwives Negotiating Council and had not been forwarded to the pay review body.

It was impossible to predict levels of pay until the new grading structure had been costed by the review body, but no nurses already working in the National Health Service would lose out. "Whatever emerges from these negotiations there would be no question of reducing the pay of people whose working arrangements did not change."

The new structures would reward specialist staff such as intensive care unit nurses and, in this way, those with extra qualifications would be rewarded through their basic salary.

However, union leaders accused the Government of wanting to use money saved from cuts in special duty payments — estimated at £400 million — to fund the new salary structures.

Mr Roger Poole, Nupe national officer, said the union would support "respon-

Continued on page 22, col 6

Four smugglers jailed for Lebanese drug plot

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

James Greenfield, a former leading figure in the Angry Brigade terrorist group, and three Israelis were yesterday sentenced to a total of 36 years in prison at the Central Criminal Court after admitting smuggling nearly two tons of Lebanese cannabis into Britain.

The list was found on Isach Ferman, aged 32, a former Israeli soldier.

£45 million haul, page 4

IN PART 2

Getting leads

Mike Gatting's position as England's cricket captain for the tour to New Zealand was reaffirmed by the TCCB yesterday. Page 36

Portfolio Gold

£28,000 to be won

● There is £28,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competitions: the weekly prize of £24,000 — three times the usual amount — and the daily prize of £4,000.

● Two readers shared yesterday's £4,000 prize. Details, page 3.

● Portfolio lists, pages 27 and 28.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Howe endorses minister's attack

Sir Geoffrey Howe yesterday rebuked the Israeli prime minister for his refusal to see a United Nations official on a fact finding mission and backed his Minister of State's criticism of Israel's action in the occupied territories.

The Foreign Secretary said of the refusal by Mr Yitzhak Shamir to meet the UN representative during a visit to the occupied territories: "Does it not illustrate only too clearly the attitudes that make it difficult to make headway there?"

Sir Geoffrey supported Mr David Mello's attack on conditions in Palestinian refugee camps. "He was saying exactly what we have been saying, sadly, for a long time - that continued occupation by Israel of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the way it is managed, was bound to have a brutalizing influence on events in the area", the Foreign Secretary said.

Sir Geoffrey left yesterday on a six-day official visit to Japan and said: "I am going there to go on representing the interests of British industry and enterprise".

Rail fares Jewellery to rise shooting

British Rail fares will go up by an average 6.5 per cent while London Transport is putting fares up by an average of 9.5 per cent. Some night bus fares will rise by 66 per cent. The increases apply from Sunday.

Mr Charles Goodwin, aged 55, and his wife, Mavis, tackled the armed men after they smashed their way into and out of their home at Rydall, near Leek, on Thursday. They less than 4 per cent, although escaped with cash and jewellery. The London to Liverpool ferry.

Det Chief Supt Malcolm Bevington, who is leading the hunt, said: "I regard this as a potential attempted murder. There was a hell of a battle in that house."

Sheep controls eased

Restrictions on the slaughter and export of some 10,000 sheep from areas affected by fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear explosion are to be lifted from Monday, the Ministry of Agriculture announced yesterday.

More than 400,000 sheep in Cumbria, north Wales and south-west Scotland are still subject to restrictions more than 18 months after abnormal levels of radio-caesium were found in ewes and lambs grazing in upland pastures where there had been exceptionally heavy rainfall.

The cleared animals have been grazing on non-contaminated pastures. There is no indication that radio-caesium levels in contaminated areas are falling.

'Loyalist' Axe man arms haul sought

Police made one of their biggest "loyalist" arms hauls in Northern Ireland yesterday after stopping three cars between Portadown and Tandragee, Co Armagh.

At least 20 weapons were found and three men are being questioned. Seven guns were found earlier in Protestant areas of Belfast.

Police on both sides of the border were last night seeking a terrorist who was carrying a bomb when he was believed to have been wounded in a shooting incident with police in Londonderry.

The man, described as "Arab-looking", smashed doors and reinforced glass windows before running into Great Russell Street. He was chased but escaped into a crowd.

Mr Tyrone Medford, a member of the tourism staff, was gashed in his upper left arm. Police do not know of a motive for the attack.

Doctor reinstated

A doctor who was suspended from work after talking to the press about cuts in family planning services has been reinstated. Dr Gillian Cardy, senior clinical medical officer for Bath Health Authority, will return to work next week. No further disciplinary action will be taken.

She was suspended by the health authority for telling a newspaper that cuts in the family planning service would lead to an increase in unwanted pregnancies.

Executive suspension is lifted

Birmingham council leaders yesterday lifted the suspension of Mr Tom Caulcott, the city's chief executive, for making allegedly indiscreet remarks about councillors.

Mr Caulcott, aged 60, will not return to his desk at the Birmingham Council House but will be on paid leave until his retirement in May.

The settlement was announced after Mr Caulcott wrote a letter of apology to Mr Dick Knowles, the Labour leader of the council, conceding that his remarks "may have been ill-judged and certainly open to misunderstanding".

Mr Caulcott, who earns £65,000 a year, was suspended on Tuesday. The remarks, understood to have included a reference to Mr Knowles, were reported back to the Labour leadership.

Mr Caulcott said yesterday: "I am relieved the suspension is lifted". According to friends, Mr Caulcott had maintained that the remarks were jocular.

Jail staff to hold more talks

Industrial action within the prison service over manning levels may be averted.

An agreement was reached yesterday at preliminary talks between the Prison Officers' Association and officials of the Home Office prison department to hold further negotiations.

Prison officers had voted by three to one in a ballot in favour of taking action. Union officials say that new manning levels proposed by the Home Office are insufficient to maintain proper security in prisons in England and Wales.

The dispute came after the introduction of "Fresh Start", a new system of working practices under which prison officers have a guaranteed annual salary of £15,000 a year in return for a reduction in overtime.

Mr John Bartlett, the association's chairman, said: "I am reasonably satisfied at the outcome of today's talks which were constructive."

Age linked to carriers of meningitis bacteria

By Jill Sherman
Social Services Correspondent

Initial research into the outbreak of meningitis at Stonehouse, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, is said to show that people who carry the meningococcal bacteria are significantly older than the victims of the disease.

The findings, which are to be published next Wednesday, have surprised epidemiologists working on the spread of the disease.

They have raised further questions about whether most carriers of the bacteria have an in-built immunity to contracting meningitis. It is known that about one in 10 people carry the bacteria, although few develop the disease.

Meningococcal meningitis tends to affect children aged under five and teenagers. However, analysis of throat swabs of the 5,000 residents of Stonehouse is said to show that those who carry the bacteria at the back of their throats are much older.

The research, which has been funded by a £57,000 grant from the Department of Health and Social Security and £20,000 from the National Meningitis Trust, is the first into carriers of the bacteria and its spread, rather than the illness itself.

Stonehouse has had 15 cases of meningococcal meningitis and two deaths since 1983. Eleven of the victims lived on one housing estate and most of the children attended the Park junior infant school.

Dr James Stuart, specialist in community medicine at the Gloucester Health Authority, who is heading the research, said that the study was not designed to establish the cause of the outbreak but to look at the pattern of the spread of the disease and its carriage.

"We looked both at where the carriers lived and their age and sex", he said. Scientists at Manchester and Edinburgh were analysing saliva and blood samples from the group for further evidence of a link between carriage and immunity. The Edinburgh scientists are looking in particular at any genetic link between carriers.

Dr Stuart said yesterday that that part of the research was expected to be published before the end of the year. Further research would look at possible environmental factors.

An earlier joint study by the Plymouth and Gloucester health authorities established a link between passive smoking and the disease. Children who had contracted meningitis were more likely to come from families with smokers than non-smoking families.

Meanwhile, further cases of meningitis were reported yesterday. A girl aged 14 months, of Merseyside, was in the intensive care unit at the Alder Hey Hospital, Liverpool.

A Hereford teenager is expected to recover after being admitted to Hereford County Hospital on Tuesday after suffering from the disease. It emerged also that Mrs Jill Calen, a beauty consultant, died of the B15 strain of meningitis at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn, Norfolk, on December 5.

At Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, Sarah Heston, aged six, whose brother Adam, aged three, died from the disease, is expected home from hospital within the next two days. Sarah, who lives on the Poolbrook Estate where three people died in the outbreak, is one of nearly 20 adults and children still in Worcester Royal Infirmary.

In Staffordshire, parents kept children away from Eton High School, Stoke-on-Trent, where Helen Tomlinson, who died of meningitis this week, was a pupil. Mr Philip Baskerville, the headmaster, said: "I've taken expert medical advice and the school will stay open because pupils are not at risk".

ITN demands 20% cut in pay rates for satellite recruits

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Independent Television News is demanding a huge cut in pay rates for new staff it will require if the company wins a contract to supply news for Britain's first home-based satellite television service.

Unless unions agree by the end of the month to an average reduction of 20 per cent in existing salary scales for the new jobs, management is prepared to put the work out to tender.

The 450 members of ACTT, the technicians' union, met yesterday to discuss the ultimatum and agreed to seek further talks with the management.

ITN is imposing the pay conditions after detailed negotiations with British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB) over the supply of a planned eight-hour daily satellite news service when the £625 million venture starts broadcasting by Christmas next year.

BSB has earmarked £10 million for the news service and is refusing to pay the £20 million originally proposed by ITN. The companies are scheduled to meet next week for renewed negotiations.

ITN anticipates it would need 160 new staff, including 60 journalists, to provide the news service.

Mr Paul Mathews, ITN's deputy chief executive, said yesterday: "We are seeking to bring in a new scale of payment for people who would be working on the BSB service because of the unique situation surrounding this operation involving the extremely high start-up costs and uncertainties over how the audience is going to build up."

"At a minimum the reduction in basic salaries would be 15 per cent and on average it would be between 18 and 20 per cent. It could be 40 per cent less in isolated cases."

He emphasized that the proposed new pay rates would not apply to people already working for ITN. "If we wanted to change arrangements generally, we would speak to the unions separately about that. That is not in our mind at the moment."

If union opposition prevented management from setting up the service as an integral part of ITN it will form a separate operation, or put the work out to contract, Mr Mathews said.

Even if ITN gets its way and agrees to BSB's reduced price, it is not certain that it will win the contract.

BSB is already planning to invite tenders for other elements of Now, its live events and news channel, including sports coverage and programmes for women and young people.

It is considering a similar policy for its news service, to make sure it is getting value for money.

Last night, Mr Bob Hunter, controller of Now, said: "BSB is still talking seriously to ITN but what we do not want is more of the same old BSB. We want something unique and innovative."

"We feel that in the present climate we have a duty to be looking seriously at what the independents have to offer."

Some of TV-am's locked-out technicians have made secret telephone calls saying they want to go back to work, the company said yesterday.

TV-am said it received about 30 calls this week from some of the 229 technicians who have been locked out for seven weeks. The technicians will meet on Tuesday to discuss what action to take next.

Breakthrough in TV news

By Michael McCarthy

by the BBC and the joint ITV system of ITN with the regional ITV companies. Independent companies may eventually provide the news output of future satellite broadcasting channels.

However, Mr Ken Hayes, Screen News's managing director, was wary of "third-force" talk yesterday as he prepared his first bulletin in his small purpose-built newsroom in St John's Wood, north-west London. It has a permanent staff of six, augmented by weekend freelance journalists.

"This is a very small beginning and how it will develop, no one knows", Mr Hayes, aged 48, said. He is a former editor of the news programme produced by Thames Television, the capital's weekday company.

"There is room for a third force in national and regional news programming, but we must prove ourselves before the idea becomes credible."

Miss Royle, aged 29, is a former presenter of the weather for the European-beamed satellite service, Superchannel.

She combines glamour and intelligence and went a long way to establishing credibility last night by reading the first bulletin of a dozen stories about everything from a huge shopping development to a 96-year-old woman called for jury service, with charm, warmth and fluency.

The equal opportunities manager of LWT, Mrs Beverley Higgs, sent a stern rebuke to the station's director of programmes, Mr Greg Dyke, about the photocall last week in which Miss Royle was introduced to press photographers while wearing a revealing outfit.

£30m scheme to start on fourth lanes for M25

By Rodney Cowton
Transport Correspondent

Work to construct a fourth lane on both carriageways of the London orbital motorway, between Chertsey and Staines, is expected to start early next month.

It is thought that the Department of Transport will announce next week that the contract to improve the M25, probably worth more than £30 million, is to be awarded to Balfour Beatty.

Plans to install a fourth lane on both carriageways, between junctions 11 and 13, which are among the busiest sections of the road, were first announced more than a year ago when traffic densities were already far exceeding the 80,000 vehicles a day for which the existing road was designed.

The latest figures, for last September, show that those sections were carrying about 130,000 vehicles a day.

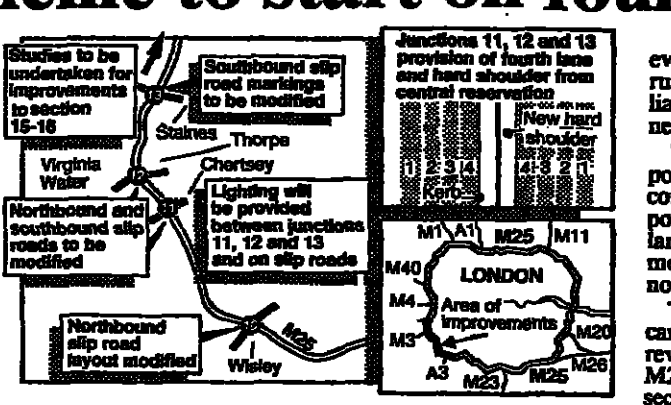
Apart from the building of the fourth lanes between Chertsey and Staines, improvements will be made to the junctions between Wisley and Staines.

It is understood that in the event of the contractor running, the contractor will be liable to pay penalties of nearly £13,000 a day.

The Department of Transport is commissioning a consultant's report into the possibility of putting fourth lanes in other sections of the motorway up to the M40, north-west of Heathrow.

The department is also to carry out a comprehensive review of the whole of the M25 because in almost all sections the volume of traffic is exceeding predicted levels.

A week ago the Costain construction group floated some radical ideas for easing traffic problems in London and the South-east. Those



Teenage call line may be banned

By Richard Ford
Political Correspondent

A British Telecom service which encourages teenagers to telephone one another may be banned because of concern that it puts children at moral and physical danger and allows them to run up big bills.

The Government has acted to tackle abuses with Telecom's Talkabout service after complaints that the line was being used by people making crude and suggestive comments, using racist language and arranging dates with other teenagers.

Parents have also objected after receiving telephone bills amounting to several hundred pounds.

Lord Young of Giffarth, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, demanded a full and urgent report yesterday from Ofel, the independent watchdog, on the problems facing the service.

Lord Young, who wrote to Professor Bryan Carlsberg, director general of Ofel, said he was particularly concerned about a "potentially serious incident" in south London in which three girls aged 15 arranged to meet a man through the service.

They alleged he took them to a flat where they were shown pornographic videos and remained there overnight after they barricaded themselves in a bedroom.

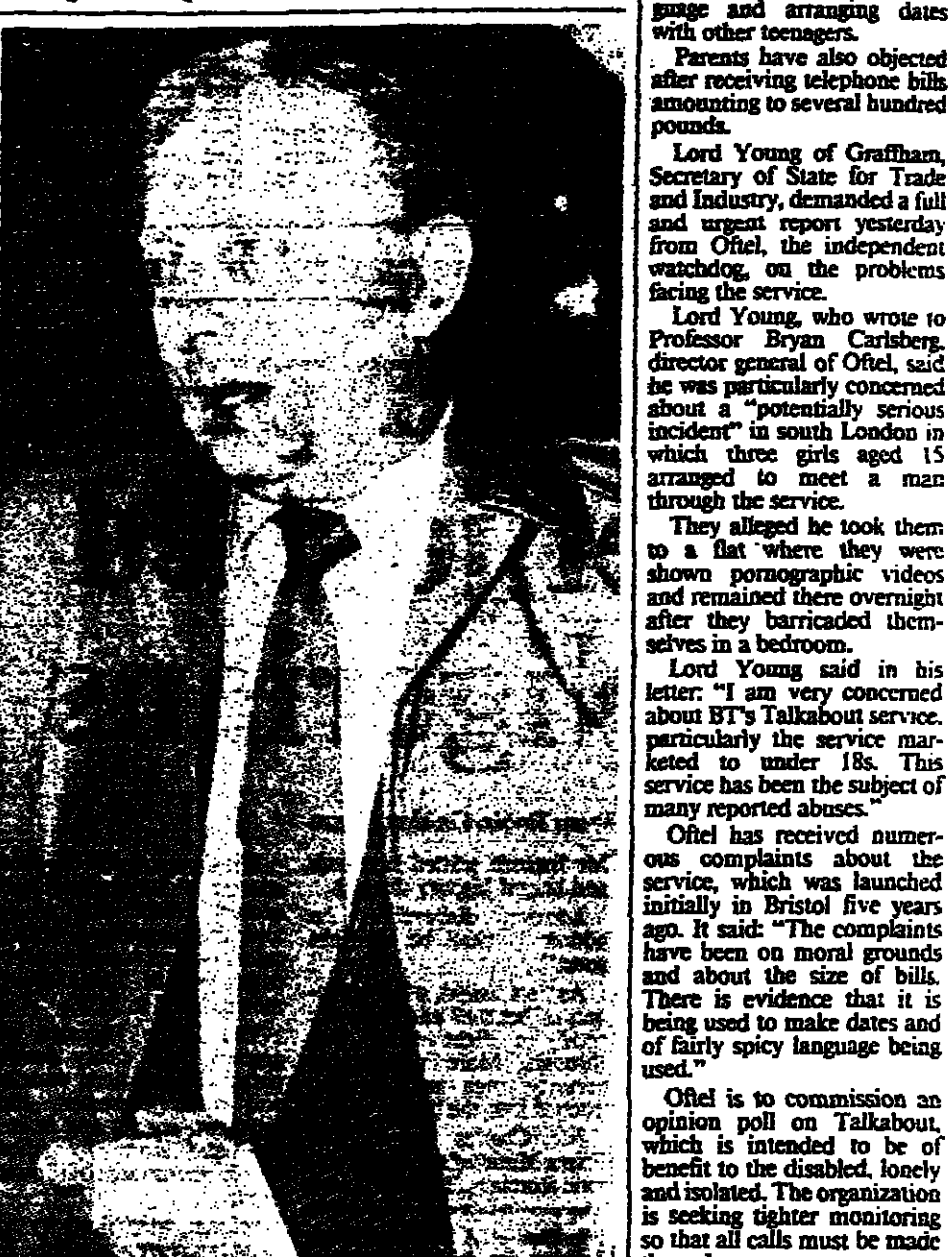
Lord Young said in his letter: "I am very concerned about BT's Talkabout service, particularly the service marketed to under 18s. This service has been the subject of many reported abuses."

Ofel has received numerous complaints about the service, which was launched initially in Bristol five years ago. It said: "The complaints have been on moral grounds and about the size of bills. There is evidence that it is being used to make dates and of fairly spicy language being used."

Ofel is to commission an opinion poll on Talkabout, which is intended to be of benefit to the disabled, lonely and isolated. The organization is seeking tighter monitoring so that all calls must be made through an operator.

Telecom has introduced some monitoring at busy centres in an attempt to prevent bad language. All calls are automatically cut off after 10 minutes, to stop teenagers running up big bills.

However, Mr Terry Lewis, Labour MP for Manchester, Worsley, who later this month will introduce a 10-minute rule Bill to ban Talkabout, said the monitoring was ineffective. "I am getting letters from all over the country complaining about this service which most people would not want to see. It is a moral danger it puts children in. It really is an abysmal service for BT to be engaged in but it makes them a lot of money."



Mr Arthur Scargill, the National Union of Mineworkers president, leaving the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield, yesterday after an operation on his infected right arm.

Ford unions turn down three-year pay offer

By Tim Jones

All 32,000 hourly paid workers employed by Ford are to be balloted on industrial action after the breakdown of pay talks yesterday when the unions rejected the company's final offer.

The 12 unions involved turned down a three-year package that would have given them an increase of 6.5 per cent in the first year and then rises linked to inflation.

Union leaders, led by Mr Mick Murphy of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said the offer was unacceptable in view of their projections that the company was shortly to announce profits of £350 million.

The company, which on Thursday announced record sales, has been hit by a series of unofficial strikes, resulting in the loss of 26,000 vehicles with a showroom value of £200 million, in the three months since the offer was first made.

Union militancy is increasing because of convictions that Ford wants to reduce the number of employees by up to 9,000 over the next three years.

Mr Murphy has said that the unions would be willing to concede many of the company's demands for new working practices in exchange for a guarantee on maintaining the size of the workforce.

Ford, which claims its offer is the "most rounded" it has made for many years, wants to introduce team working and flexibility between skilled and unskilled workers.

Yesterday, Mr John Hougham, Ford's personnel director, said: "The offer remains on the table."

O'Hare in new legal dispute

A special court hearing to charge Dessy O'Hare had to be adjourned twice in Dublin last night amid legal disputes.

The state prosecution presented evidence from senior police officers of Mr O'Hare's arrest on November 29 after a shooting battle with security forces near Kilkenny.

A senior police officer testified that he arrested Mr O'Hare under the Offences Against the State Act and had him transferred by ambulance to hospital where he remained until being taken into police custody last Thursday.

The prosecution failed to produce evidence from doctors that Mr O'Hare had been in hospital since his arrest six weeks ago.

Mr Garret Sheehan, solicitor, sought Mr O'Hare's release on the ground that the state had not produced evidence to show where he had been since his arrest.

State officials tried to contact hospital staff in a 10-minute adjournment. When the evidence was still not available, Mr Justice William Hamilton ordered a second adjournment until 9pm.

Mr O'Hare is accused of falsely impersonating John O'Grady, a Dublin dentist, from October 23 to November 6 last year, and of wounding him with intent to maim. He is also charged with unlawful possession of fire arms.

Massive security surrounded the arrival in court of Mr O'Hare, who was visibly suffering from the effect of six bullet wounds.

River users fear levy to beat poachers

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

Fishermen and boat users on inland waterways yesterday expressed concern at the prospect of a steep increase in licence fees after the present water authorities in England and Wales are privatized, probably in the summer of next year.

There are estimated to be some 2,500,000 fresh water anglers in Britain. In total they pay some £4.5m a year to the maintenance and improvement of fisheries.

In the main coarse fishing areas, controlled by the Thames, Severn-Trent and Anglian water authorities, the income from licences covers the costs.

Mr Peter Tomblinson, executive director of the National Anglers' Council, said the main concern among anglers was that the heavy cost of protecting salmon and sea trout fisheries from poachers, which is at present borne by the water authorities concerned, would devolve upon the proposed new National Rivers Authority (NRA).

This could mean that the authority would have to increase the rod licence fee to cover the cost of protecting game fisheries, which are very much a minority interest.

There is no national licensing scheme for boat owners. Navigation owners, such as the British Waterways Board, have a scale of charges based on the length of the boat.

Owners of smaller craft, such as canoes and sailing dinghies, are able to use some stretches of water free of charge, but in many cases belong to clubs which pay fees to the water authorities.

Mr John Thomson, secretary of the Inland Waterways Association, said last night: "We are very worried about the proposed changes, and we have asked for a meeting with the minister."

In a consultation paper last month the Government outlined its proposals for the rivers authority which, as well as acting as a regulatory body, would also assume responsibility for land drainage, flood defences, pollution control, fisheries, conservation, recreation and navigation.

This week, Lord Belstead, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, said the new authority would be expected to recover "as much as possible" of its own costs from direct charges.

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£4.5m cannabis haul from Middle East

Three Israelis and former Angry Brigade man jailed

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Three Israeli businessmen were yesterday sentenced at the Central Criminal Court to 10 years in prison each and a former member of the Angry Brigade was jailed for six years for importing one of the largest cannabis hauls ever found in Britain.

Judge Cassick told the four they were all "important subordinates" in a smuggling ring which the court was told stretched from the Lebanon to the East coast of England but was stopped in Britain by a customs operation described as detective and investigative work of the "highest order".

Sentencing the three Israelis the judge told them the drugs, in more than 130 packages, were a "massive importation", whose value was put at £4.5 million. The three Israelis were talented

and intelligent, he said, and told them: "I am satisfied that in each of your cases the motive was pure financial gain, one could almost say greed".

He had decided that each of them should be treated equally in spite of pleas about their different roles.

During the hearing, after all four had pleaded guilty to importing the drugs in 1986, the defendants were separated in the dock by prison officers. After the Israelis had been taken down the judge turned to James Greenfield, the former Angry Brigade member.

Greenfield served six years of a 10-year sentence for his part in the Angry Brigade's activities. The court was told that after being arrested for the cannabis smuggling he had

given the customs investigators information, made a statement and was prepared to give evidence.

He had been warned in prison that the Lebanese behind the smuggling would try to kill him and he faced the prospect of being kept in prison in solitary confinement.

The judge told him he accepted all he had been prepared to do for the crown but he had made his own decisions about becoming involved in the smuggling. Unlike the Israelis he already had convictions.

He told Greenfield, aged 39, unemployed, of Southwark High Road, south London: "You were doing it for money in the knowledge this involved the importation of

hundreds of kilos" of cannabis.

Earlier, Mr Peter Beaumont, QC, for the crown, told the court that Greenfield organized the nuts and bolts of the movement of a container into Britain.

Two of the Israelis, Asher Sivan and Moshe Shitrowise, monitored its movements as minders while the third, Isack Zachik Ferman, was at the end of the chain in London, where the container was eventually destined after being moved round the country.

Mr Alan Rawley, QC, for Greenfield, said the Cambridge graduate was a man of great intellectual gifts who as a student "had gone to the wrong place, at the wrong time

He had served his sentence until released in 1978 for a cause he no longer believed in. Greenfield had set up businesses to help under-developed areas of East Africa. He agreed to get involved in the smuggling for a fee of £8,000 and some of the furniture used as a cover for the drug consignment. The money would have gone to find more work in Africa.

Greenfield, who was the father of a baby daughter, was basically a humane and kindly man who was never likely again to get into trouble.

Mr Rawley said as far as Greenfield was concerned the smuggling was "not done to give himself the money to live high on the hog for a year or two". He had not known the true size of the consignment.

Mr Stephen Solley, for Ferman, said his client had served twice in the Israeli Army with distinction. He had stood to make £20,000 from the smuggling. Counsel for the other two Israelis said they would have earned £25,000 each for their work in watching the movement of the consignment.

Mr Michael Mansfield, for Shitrowise, said he had been a "minder" and had not recruited anyone or been involved in the organization.

Counsel for Sivan, a Moroccan-born Israeli citizen, said that his client disagreed with the statement made by Greenfield including the suggestion that he had recruited him in 1985.

They had in fact first met in 1981 when Sivan was a man with a spirit of adventure and an ideal cover for recruitment in the future.

The desolate woodland



Mr David Masters, a National Trust head gardener, amid the devastation caused by October's hurricane at Nymans Garden, near Handcross, West Sussex. The garden is holding a free open day tomorrow for the public to see the effects of the storm, which damaged about four-fifths of the trees there (Photograph: Graham Wood).

Portfolio Gold

Cash win coincides with visit

Two winners share the £4,000 prize in The Times Portfolio Gold competition, a retired wholesaler and a member of the BBC monitoring services.

News of his success came at an opportune time for Mr John Garland, of Uppingham, Rutland, Leicestershire, as his son, Dr Robert Garland, was on a visit from the United States where he is a philosophy lecturer at Colgate University, New York.

Part of the £2,000 prize would go on a celebration dinner, Mr Garland said, and in the spring he and his wife Ena, would fly to the US to stay with their son and his family.

Mr Garland, a regular follower of the competition since it began, is aged 80 but retired only seven years ago from the wholesale business he ran in Cricklewood, north London.

He says he enjoys the peace and quiet of his country cottage but occasionally returns to London to watch cricket at Lord's.

Mr Jim McClure, who has worked at the BBC monitoring services department at Caversham for a number of years, is the second winner.

Mr McClure, who has three children, Alison, aged 15, John, 13, and Zoe, nine, lives in Caversham, Reading, Berkshire, and has been doing the Portfolio competition since it started.

Portfolio Gold cards can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

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Blackburn,
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Drugs inquiry stretches out to gun runners of Lebanon

By Our Crime Reporter

Operation Cubby, the Customs strategy which yesterday led to the conviction of three Israelis and a former member of the Angry Brigade, began as a drugs investigation. It ended by reaching into a darker world of international arms trafficking and the Lebanese civil war.

A second former member of the Angry Brigade is a fugitive abroad and plans were laid to rescue the Israelis from a British prison using American helicopter pilots.

The FBI intervened to arrest the would-be rescuer, a fourth Israeli said to have taken part in planning the airliner rescue attempt at Entebbe airport in Uganda.

The operation uncovered evidence that up to four tons of Lebanese cannabis worth £10 million was smuggled into Britain in containers sent from Beirut by Christian Lebanese operators.

One of the Lebanon's top

drug distributors met Israeli smugglers on the neutral ground of Cyprus and back at home had connections which stretched across the religious divide to the Muslim-controlled cannabis fields of the Bekaa Valley.

It also revealed an arms list held by one of the Israelis itemizing quantities of American and Soviet munitions. The list included M16A assault rifles, 50 M20B grenade launchers, Picket rocket launchers or something similar with 330 rockets, 50 Browning machine guns and a Sam 7B with 25 rounds.

Customs suspect money from the drug trafficking might have been used to buy arms for Christian militia allies of the Israeli smugglers or the smugglers could have been planning a complicated series of manoeuvres to profit from both arms and cannabis.

There has also been speculation that the Israelis, who used sophisticated surveillance techniques, might be linked in some way with Mossad, the Israeli intelligence organization.

Customs received intelligence, for which a reward is said to have been made, showing that a large consignment of cannabis had reached Britain in 1984 in a container loaded with Italian-made pine furniture via Falcitown.

Late in 1985, Greenfield, a Cambridge graduate and the son of poor Lancashire parents, claims he was approached to take part in bringing a consignment of drugs into Britain and agreed to handle the paperwork.

The day after the container arrived in London, Ferman and Sivan travelled to Heathrow Airport bound for Paris. Customs investigators moved in swiftly but they lost Barker. He is now living in Greece where Customs say they cannot reach him.



International drug smugglers: (from left) Shitrowise, Sivan, Ferman and Greenfield.

Peer wins £800 court delay costs

A peer was awarded costs of £800 by a judge yesterday after prosecution witnesses failed to appear at an appeal hearing.

Lord Halsbury appeared at Knightsbridge Crown Court, west London, to appeal against a conviction last October for driving without care.

Lord Halsbury, aged 79, a former BBC governor, was charged after an accident in Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, in January last year. No one was hurt. However, he was unable to begin his appeal after the court was told prosecution witnesses had not been forewarned of the hearing.

Mr Anthony Hooper, QC, for Lord Halsbury, of Sheffield Terrace, Kensington, applied for £1100 in legal costs for the day after the hearing was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

The recorder awarded £800 after consulting the chief taxing officer of the court.

Mr Hooper, of Dawson and Co, the solicitors, said: "The Earl and the Baroness Hilton-Foster were returning from the House of Lords."

"He often takes her or other persons home at the conclusion of meetings."

Lord Halsbury said Lady Hilton-Foster, who also appeared at court, refused to comment afterwards.

Girl's triple attack

Rape police seek taxi driver

By Michael Horsnell

Detectives questioned taxi drivers yesterday as the hunt was widened for three men who raped a girl aged 14 in two separate attacks while she sought help to find her way from a pantomime in London to her home 266 miles away.

A cab driver police want to trace is believed to have taken her with two men to an address in the Catford area of south London where she was forced to drink alcohol before being raped by one of them.

After being abandoned in the street the girl, who had travelled alone from Durham to see her favourite television star, Peter Howitt, appear in *Babe in the Wood* at the London Palladium, appealed

for assistance from two other men, only to be raped by both in the back of their car.

The girl, who is said to be so infatuated by Mr Howitt that she dressed in high heels and mini skirt like his screen sister Aveline, played by Gilly Coman in the series *Bread*, had told her parents she was going out for the day with friends in the North-east.

Last night a distressed Mr Howitt, who plays the part of scrounger Joey Boswell in *Bread*, promised to visit the girl when she has recovered from her ordeal.

Detectives said they were hoping to trace the taxi driver, a middle-aged man of stocky build who is possibly balding, who drove off with the other man at between 0.30am and

01.10am on Wednesday. Police also appealed for the Bangladeshi who drove off with him to come forward.

After the first attack, the girl wandered the streets and sought help from two young men, believed to be of Mediterranean appearance.

She told them what had happened to her but they drove her down a side street and raped her in the back of the vehicle before dumping her soon after 3am in a council depot in Wealdside Road, Lewisham, south London.

The girl was meanwhile seen between her two ordeals outside a McDonald's restaurant in Rushey Green, Catford, at 2.40am and police appealed for witnesses to contact them on (01) 697 9251.

Heysel manslaughter trial

Twenty-six British football supporters were yesterday sent for trial on manslaughter charges arising from the 1985 Heysel stadium riot.

The Belgian public prosecutor's office said the Britons, 20 of whom are being held in a Belgian prison, would appear before a Brussels correctional tribunal, a non-jury court. No date for the trial had been fixed.

The group included 25 supporters who were extradited last September to answer charges arising from the riot

before the European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus in May 1985. Five were released later on the grounds that they were not needed for further questioning.

A total of 39 people, mainly Italian football supporters, were killed when a stadium wall collapsed in the violence. The manslaughter charge carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

Three Belgians, the secretary-general of the Belgian soccer union and two police officers, will appear in the

same court to answer charges including involuntary homicide, the spokesman said.

The twenty-sixth person referred for trial was Mark Nolan, of Liverpool, whose extradition had not been requested by the Belgian authorities. However, the spokesman had no further details on his case.

Another Briton sought over the Heysel affair, who is serving a prison sentence in Britain on unrelated charges, would be dealt with separately later, the spokesman said.

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Pastel Mink Coat	£ 5,400	£ 2,950
Beaver Coat	£ 4,500	£ 3,250
Silver Fox Coat	£ 8,900	£ 4,750
Canadian Red Fox Coat	£ 4,500	£ 1,900
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Royal wedding set in a register office

By Kerry Gill

The Thomas Morton Hall, Leith, may not have quite the cachet of St Paul's Cathedral, but when you are seventeenth in line to the throne a wedding in a register office is fine.

At 11.15 this morning Lord St Andrews, elder son of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, will arrive at Leith Register Office, in the public library buildings, to marry Miss Sylvanus Tomasselli, a Canadian aged 30 who is a history research fellow at Newnham College, Cambridge.

She is a Roman Catholic and, although she is hoped, this means Lord St Andrews, aged 25, loses his right of succession under the Act of Settlement of 1701.

Miss Tomasselli is also a divorcee, one

reason why Mr James Lambert, Leith's registrar of births, deaths and marriages, and not the Archbishop of Canterbury, will pronounce the couple man and wife.

Under the Royal Marriages Act of 1772 a member of the Royal Family cannot marry in an English or Welsh register office, but it is permissible in Scotland.

The first royal wedding ever to take place in a register office will not be an entirely discreet event. Among the guests will be the bridegroom's parents, Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, and Princess Alexandra.

However, there will be no fireworks, carriages or crossed swords. Lord St Andrews is known as a shy man, more interested in books and study than the usual activities of the Royal Family.

He is taking a postgraduate degree at

Cambridge and is on attachment to the Diplomatic Service.

Mr Lambert said yesterday that he officiated at 242 weddings last year, but this ceremony is made more complicated by royal protocol.

He said: "I have been dealing with the Duke of Kent's private secretary, Sir Richard Buckley, who has advised me on the protocol."

Leith was chosen as the register office because it has the biggest marriage room of Edinburgh register offices, has ample off-street parking and is close to the Palace of Holyrood House.

A service of dedication, attended by other members of the Royal Family, will take place, possibly next month. The couple will spend their honeymoon abroad before returning to their home in Cambridge.

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Jail for corrupt Hampton Court contracts official

A former senior Civil Servant at Hampton Court Palace in west London was jailed for three and a half years and fined £20,000 with £30,000 costs yesterday for corruption involving maintenance contracts.

The Central Criminal Court was told that John Trevillion, aged 64, the former district works officer, was involved in widespread corruption among public servants and private contractors involving the palace.

Mr Michael Sayers, for the prosecution, told the jury that the tender price of contracts paid for by public funds had been illegally increased to cover the costs of hidden payments and other benefits for officials.

This meant, he said, that the taxpayer was paying for the bribes to Civil Servants. He said: "These payments were blatant and cynical. They were freely given and willingly received."

Mr Sayers said the money spent on maintenance by Hampton Court district works office in the years under

investigation, 1982 to 1984, was more than £3 million.

The jury found Trevillion guilty of three charges of corruption and one of conspiracy to corrupt.

Trevillion, of Montgomery Close, Sidcup, Kent, was ordered to pay £30,000 prosecution costs. If the £20,000 fine is not paid within two months he faces an additional 12-month consecutive jail sentence.

Two private contractors were convicted for their part in the conspiracy and they were remanded on bail for further trials. Judge Machin, QC, ordered that their names should not be divulged until the outcome of the other trials, which will involve other public servants and private contractors.

The benefits accepted by the Civil Servants involved included cash, holidays abroad, including Las Vegas, home improvements, expensive clothing and membership of exclusive clubs.

As a result, he said, the public had been deeply cheated.

"Not only were we not getting value for money in respect of the upkeep of our buildings, Hampton Court Palace and others, but the cost of the contracts, corruptly awarded, were expanded to cover the cost of the bribes."

"In other words, the taxpayer was paying bribes to the ministry officials."

In many instances, the required work was not done at all, but nevertheless government money was paid to the contractors in full.

Mr Sayers said: "All these matters were paid for out of

the public purse. In short, the contractors were on the make and the officials were on the take."

Great care was taken to cover up the payments and ensure there were no unaccounted cash payments in contractors' books.

Trevillion was in charge of the £3 million spent by his district works office in 1982-84, Mr Sayers said. Under him was his deputy and under them were some professional and technical officers.

In 1982 Trevillion's salary was just over £11,500 a year, plus an annual London weighting allowance of about £500, Mr Sayers said.

Trevillion and his assistants were in charge of allocating government funds to various sources and the bulk of the maintenance work was carried out by private contractors.

Trevillion denied in court that he had taken part in any corruption. He said he had accepted no bribes.

Judge Machin told Trevillion: "No court ever wants to see a man who has served in the Armed Forces during the war and a man who for many years had a good character, appear before a judge, facing an immediate sentence of substantial imprisonment."

"I accept that you were probably not the initiator or the instigator, but you undoubtedly joined a system of corruption and you were in a position to prevent it."

"I am satisfied you made very substantial sums indeed from corrupt payments and I see no reason whatever why the public should make any contribution towards your prosecution costs."

Unemployment: the Stockton challenge



Lord Stockton and his family yesterday in Stockton where his grandfather, Harold Macmillan, was MP for 19 years (Photograph: Ted Ditchburn).

By Peter Davesport

More than 60 years after the plight of the unemployed of Stockton-on-Tees first moved the young Harold Macmillan, his successor as Earl of Stockton has pledged to help to resolve the problem that still dominates the lives of many families in the town.

The grandson of the former prime minister, who represented Stockton in Parliament for 19 years, said that his motive was the desire to repay a family debt.

"It had not been for Stockton and his people my grandfather would never have had the money on the night that actually got him into Downing Street. That is what we owe them."

"He was an intellectual man with a privileged upbringing and Stockton exposed him to the realities of life.

Without that he would not have been prime minister or have become an earl and therefore neither would I.

"It is particularly hard that two generations later the people are facing some of the same sort of problems. If there is anything I can help with then I feel very strongly that I must do so."

Lord Stockton, aged 44 and now chairman of Macmillan, the family publishing firm, was speaking on a three-day visit during which he is meeting church leaders, local politicians and charities. He is also raising the opportunity to introduce his wife, Bliza, son Daniel, aged 13, and daughters Rebecca, aged seven, and Louise, aged five, to the town.

Unemployment there is 16 per cent, according to 12,700 people, and the creation of new jobs was the main issue in talks yesterday between Lord

Stockton and local politicians, who showed him around a disused bakery where the council is hoping to create 400 jobs in micro-electronics through a joint venture with the private sector costing £2.8 million.

A spokesman for Stockton Council said: "Lord Stockton's grandfather is still remembered fondly in this town and there is much respect for him. We hope the new earl can help us."

Stockton has built no memorial to its most famous MP but a committee was recently established to decide the best way of honouring him and, since his death at the age of 92 in December 1986, a new public house and a new boat for the local rowing club have both been named after him.

Lord Stockton said that his grandfather chose to fight the Stockton seat in 1924 because he had been im-

pressed by the courage of local men who had fought under his command during the First World War when he was a captain in the Grenadier Guards.

Boundary changes since then have given the town two MPs, one Conservative and one Labour, but however the townspeople may be of their association with Lord Stockton's grandfather, they rejected at the last election the opportunity to resurrect the political link with the Macmillan family. Mr David Fisher, another of his grandsons, stood as a Conservative candidate in Stockton North and was soundly defeated.

However, Lord Stockton said he wanted to cut across the political divide. He saw himself as "constitutionalist, Central Office and greasing wheels".

House prices

First time buyers hold key

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

A fall in demand by first time buyers because they cannot afford the price of London property could lead to a slowing down in house price inflation towards the end of the year, the Halifax Building Society said yesterday.

In London the number of first time buyers as a proportion of all buyers dropped from 50 per cent in 1985 to 45 per cent in 1986 and 41 per cent last year.

In 1983 the average London first time buyer paid £30,000, two and a half times the average income of £11,500.

"Today the price is £64,000, almost four times the average income of £16,600. Buyers have to find a deposit of over £11,000, more than double the £5,000 in 1983. So access to housing is a lot more difficult."

In addition, the Halifax says, the benefit of mortgage interest tax relief has been

sharply reduced. It now applies to only about half the price of the cheapest properties in London whereas when it was introduced in 1974 the £25,000 ceiling was well above the £15,000 average London house price.

"It is no surprise that today young people are joining together to buy properties in London, and claiming double tax relief. This only puts a couple back in the same relative position a single buyer would have been in 10 years ago."

The Halifax emphasizes that first time buyer demand is critical, for unless there is a steady supply of new buyers, the rest of the market cannot move. "Trade-up slows. Asking prices cannot be achieved. Inflation slackens or stops."

The society believes that either London pay differentials will increase to provide the incomes to buy the houses

leading to an even wider north-south divide, or the London housing market will correct itself with a fall-off in first time buyer demand.

The Halifax admits that first time buyers are still keen to enter the housing market, and says that so long as buyers expect prices to rise at 15-20 per cent a year it is good sense to make every sacrifice to get into the owner occupier market.

In a year's time prices could have moved further away from their ability to buy, and inherited wealth, mainly from owner occupied housing, will find its way to some first time buyers.

The Halifax house price index shows that in the fourth quarter of 1987 the north-south divide widened again as house prices in the southern part of the country continued to rise at a faster rate than those in the northern regions.

Greater London prices were up 22.8 per cent compared with the last quarter of 1986, a slightly lower increase than the 26 per cent recorded in the first quarter, while the South-east saw an annual increase of 25 per cent and East Anglia showed the largest increase of 30.4 per cent.

Other regional increases were: North - 7.1 per cent; Yorkshire and Humberside - 9.4 per cent; North-west - 8.7 per cent; East Midlands - 14.6 per cent; West Midlands - 15.7 per cent; South-west - 22.8 per cent; Wales - 8.5 per cent; Scotland - 5.6 per cent; and Northern Ireland - 0.4 per cent.

Overall prices went up 15.8 per cent last year, and the Halifax forecasts house price inflation this year at 14-15 per cent.

Incest pair freed by judge

A judge yesterday refused to condemn or punish a brother and sister said to be "desperately" in love.

Mervyn Goodhue, aged 42, a postman, and his sister, Ursula, aged 25, were involved in one of the most unusual and tragic cases on record, Mr John Bevan, for the prosecution, said at the Central Criminal Court. They met "virtually for the first time" at a family reunion last Easter.

Granting them absolute discharge, Judge Denison, QC, said: "This is not a case of incest. Until 1968 a relationship such as yours was not the concern of the criminal law but was dealt with by an ecclesiastical body."

The judge said that the couple, from Kensington estate, Farnborough, Hampshire, undertook to take steps not to have children.

The brother had a bitter dispute and left home when he was a teenager, before their mother gave birth to Ursula. He moved to another part of the country and married. Over the years he hardly visited his mother and was a "stranger" to others in the family.

His sister was going through her second divorce when the couple met at a family reunion.

Mr Bevan said that after that reunion, they were immediately infatuated with each other and started living together.

Mr Charles Judge, for the defence, told the court the couple believed their relationship should be legalized. "They do not regard each other as brother and sister because they have hardly been aware of the other's existence for 25 years", he said.

Art markets

Old Master dealers merge

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

Three distinguished Old Master dealers announced yesterday that they are to merge. Hazlitt, Gooden & Fox, will now incorporate two other firms: Hobhouse and Morton Morris.

Together, they hope to be financially powerful enough to afford the ever-increasing outlay necessary for buying art and to supply museums all over the world.

Speaking yesterday from the new joint address in Bury Street, St James, Mr Jack Beazley, the managing director, said: "Mergers like this are part of a trend which is likely to continue. You cannot specialize in quite the same way as you could before."

Separately each company had achievements to its name, with Hazlitt, Gooden & Fox winning most of the laurels due to its longevity. Gooden & Fox was established more than 100 years ago and in 1973

was amalgamated with the Hazlitt Gallery, run by Mr Baer since 1947.

A specialist in Italian mannerist, baroque and rococo paintings as well as the French Baroque school, Mr Baer is quite a feature of the art market, with his fair share of "discoveries". (The missing panel from an important altarpiece by Adam Elsheimer, for example).

He has also sponsored a number of public exhibitions, such as that of Master Drawings by Guercino at the Ashmolean Museum last year.

Having first set himself up in 1969, as a specialist in English and Old Master drawings, John Morton Morris has recently sold a newly discovered Durer drawing and a record-breaking Raphael drawing at the Chatsworth sale.

Niall Hobhouse started dealing in 1973, first specializ-

ing in British painters in India and the Far East.

Asked whether he thought the new merger would send a shock of apprehension through his rivals, Mr Baer said: "We have goodwill in the art world and I hope people will be pleased. I don't think it is a matter of our competitors being upset, as there are some very good competitors around."

One of those said: "They are all companies that have been doing quite well. The shops that are being brought in are young and thriving, and this must give them more muscle. But in the end of the day it's the guy who gets the best pictures who will do best."

Morton Morris and Hobhouse have each bought shares in Hazlitt and other shareholders in the new company include Lord Goodman and Mr Harry Hyams, the property developer.

Police get stepsisters death clue

Police said yesterday that an unkept, middle-aged man was seen knocking at the inner door of the grocery shop owned by the stepsisters, Alice and Edna Rowley, on December 22, the day they are thought to have been murdered.

A witness who saw the suspect left for Germany the next day unaware of the double killing in Sparkhill, Birmingham, and did not come forward until this week when he returned to the city.

The suspect is described as white, aged about 45-50 and with swept back greasy hair.

Family to sue

The family of Mr Alfred Carden, of Somerleyton Gardens, Norwich, who died aged 77 after a blood transfusion infected with Hepatitis B, is to sue the East Anglian health authority for compensation.

Dancing on

Rudolf Nureyev yesterday dismissed suggestions that he should retire and said he was totally unconcerned at reviews that called his performances with the Royal Ballet agonizingly laboured.

Court guard

Armed police guarded Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, central London, yesterday as seven men and a woman charged in connection with the £30 million robbery at Knightsbridge safety deposit centre were sent for trial.

Rapist jailed

Gary Dixon, aged 24, a freelance photographer and fitness fanatic, of St Matthew's Road, Brixton, south-west London, was given four life sentences yesterday for raping four women at knifepoint and attacking three others.

Widow is 111

Mrs Kate Begbie, of Dundee, Britain's oldest person, is 111 today and will celebrate her twelfth birthday with the Queen with a glass of cider.

Party splits

Three members expelled from the Communist Party in Britain announced yesterday they are to launch the Communist Campaign Group, a rival faction.

£1m theft trial

Robert Chatwin, a jeweller from Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, was yesterday remanded in custody for trial at Birmingham Crown Court on theft, fraud and deception charges involving more than £1 million.

Alarm stolen

Burglars who have robbed a Coventry stationary firm six times in the past nine weeks have stolen the burglar alarm.

Jailbreak film

A video film showing the helicopter escape from Garmen Prison, Leicestershire, will be shown on *Crimewatch*, the BBC television programme, on Tuesday.

GP struck off after drug death

A doctor was ordered to be struck off the Medical Register yesterday after he was found guilty on charges of wrongly prescribing controlled drugs.

Dr Raja Wannaku-Korale was guilty of serious professional misconduct, a hearing of the General Medical Council's professional conduct committee in Manchester decided.

Dr Korale, aged 47, had denied he had given drugs to a former patient in exchange for sexual intercourse.

He said he had not had any sexual relationship with Miss Beverly Sutcliffe, aged 23, who worked for him as a receptionist. He also denied supplying controlled drugs to his secretary and to Miss Sutcliffe's boyfriend.

The committee had been told in Manchester that Dr Korale, whose practice is in City Road, Hulme, Manchester, prescribed and gave controlled drugs to Miss Sutcliffe.

She was found drowned in a bath with a drugs overdose. He also denied giving drugs to a witness in the case in exchange for sexual favours.

Institute of British Geographers

Aids spread in Britain to be mapped

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Preliminary research into the spread of the Aids virus into different sections of the community in the West Midlands shows the first signs of the infection being transmitted among heterosexuals who do not use drugs.

The findings were outlined yesterday by two medical geographers, Dr Sandra Winn, of Central Birmingham Health Authority, and Mr Andrew Lovett of Lancaster University, to the annual conference of the Institute of British Geographers, meeting at Loughborough University.

After Dr Winn's report the institute agreed to support a special research group to extend the study of the distribution of Aids cases throughout Britain.

The hope is to increase knowledge of how the disease spreads, and assist health authorities in planning the care of victims.

Dr Winn expressed caution in interpreting the results that suggest the start of the transmission of the disease among heterosexuals in the West Midlands who do not use drugs.

The seven heterosexual carriers of HIV, all identified in the past year, represent

3.5 per cent of all HIV positives.

However, Dr Winn said: "The inevitable spread of infection into the heterosexual population is clearly under way in the region."

On the positive side, she said, government publicity about the disease has prompted a marked increase in the number of people seeking testing for HIV.

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Heart surgery victims of child nursing crisis

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

A critical shortage of skilled paediatric nurses is the main reason for the delays in operations on children such as Matthew Collier, the boy from Birmingham who requires hole-in-the-heart surgery.

Matthew, aged four, is likely to undergo surgery next week but yesterday had a chest infection which could further delay it.

His planned operation at Birmingham Children's Hospital has been postponed three times and his parents earlier this week failed to win a court order compelling the hospital to carry it out.

Mr Joseph De Giovanni, the surgeon looking after the boy, said yesterday that although his condition was not an emergency it had deteriorated.

Such surgery is not unusually complex but with pre-operative and post-operative care typically requires the combined efforts of more than 20 medical staff, nurses and technicians.

Mr De Giovanni will lead a team of nine, including assistant surgeons, anaesthetists

and theatre nurses during the operation itself.

Patients such as Matthew are cared for in the hospital's paediatric intensive care unit, which should have eight beds.

Each child in the unit requires 24-hour care provided by six nurses working in shifts. The shortages of specially qualified nurses has meant that only six, and frequently only four, of the beds have been available.

It means that scores of children have been unable to receive treatment there in recent months.

The large number of nurses and doctors per child is necessary because of the constant supervision required to prevent or control infections before and after surgery and to monitor a battery of complex equipment.

There is a national shortage of paediatric intensive care nurses. The work requires rigorous training and is particularly stressful and demanding.

In spite of these challenges, it does not offer extra financial incentives and fails to attract sufficient trainees.

09/01/1988

WORLD ROUNDUP

Scant response to Sydney gun law

Sydney (AP) — Australians have handed in more than 600 weapons to New South Wales police in complying with the state's new gun laws. The controls were imposed after a shooting massacre in Melbourne last month in which nine people died.

However, officials said an estimated one million guns would have to be surrendered in New South Wales if the new laws were to be complied with. Possession of weapons is now forbidden except for farmers and members of established shooting clubs. Offenders face an \$A1,000 (about \$400) fine.

Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, had sought to implement tough gun control laws nationwide, but Tasmania and the Northern Territory did not accept the plan. The December 8 massacre was the worst mass civilian killing in Australia's history, and came four months after a gunman in Melbourne killed seven people and wounded 16 others.

Paintings seized US trip to test site

Washington — France has turned over nine valuable paintings sought by the United States in connection with an investigation of the former Philippines President, Mr Ferdinand Marcos (Monsin Ali writes).

American officials disclosed that the paintings were handed over on Wednesday to Mr Edwin Messer, the US Attorney General, who was in Paris for a meeting with French officials.

French authorities had seized the paintings from Mr Adnan Khashoggi, a wealthy Saudi Arabian businessman who, it is alleged, was given the paintings by Mr Marcos for safe-keeping in France.

Tambo victory claim

Lusaka (Reuters) — Mr Oliver Tambo, right, president of the National African Congress, said on its 76th anniversary yesterday that his organisation had survived the South African Government's efforts to destroy it, and was in a stronger position to fight apartheid. "The enemy has failed in its objective: that is a great victory for us," he said. Pretoria has banned all meetings in Johannesburg marking the anniversary.



Turks ban torture Siege over back pay

Ankara (Reuters) — Turkey is preparing to sign a European-wide convention against torture, removing an obstacle to its bid to join the European Community, state radio said yesterday.

The Foreign Minister, Mr Mesut Yilmaz, told the radio: "The decision to sign the convention signals Government determination to protect and progress human rights." Turkey will become the twentieth state to endorse the convention, leaving only Ireland.

Lisbon (Reuters) — At least seven people were injured when police stormed an arms factory where several hundred workers had taken four managers hostage to demand payment of their December wages and Christmas bonuses.

The protest at the state-owned munitions factory, Industrias Nacionais de Defesa EP, on the outskirts of Lisbon, was broken up late on Thursday night by riot police. Those injured were not seriously hurt.

Gulag for bird killer

Moscow (Reuters) — A Soviet citizen who, in a drunken frenzy, killed five penguins to death and then decided to wring their necks for good measure has been sentenced to five years in a strict-regime labour camp and fined 8,200 rubles (\$3,200), a newspaper in the Baltic republic of Lithuania reported. Sanyus Butimais killed the penguins after drinking two bottles of vodka with a friend, who was employed as a guard at an aquarium in the Lithuanian port of Klaipeda. Sovietkryzja Litva said in its January 3 edition, which reached Moscow yesterday.

The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva acknowledged yesterday that flights ceased before Christmas.

It is understood that a representative of the Mozambican National Resistance telephoned Geneva, reportedly from the rebels' office in

Plight of homeless sears American conscience

The bitter cold sweeping across America has brought into focus an issue that has long haunted the nation's conscience and is rapidly becoming a controversial election issue — homelessness.

The spectacle of thousands of ragged and dispirited people, often old, black and poor, huddled over grates, lined up outside soup kitchens or impromptu passers-by, has begun to shame the US.

It is a sorry picture that appears not only in Soviet propaganda. The American television networks show nightly scenes of police round-ups to save the homeless from freezing, emergency shelters and makeshift accommodations, luxury flats standing empty while harassed city officials point to the dwindling stock of low-income housing.

The statistics are bad enough. In Washington, there are about 7,000 homeless, in Manhattan at least twice the number. National estimates range from 350,000 to six million, and the numbers appear to be increasing. No longer are

America's homeless mostly alcoholics, the mentally ill and the unemployed. More and more people in low-paid jobs, evicted from their homes, have only the streets to live on. City shelters are overflowing, families are broken up, and the vicious downward spiral begins.

It is not only the churches and social workers who are now raising the alarm. The politicians have sensed a rising anger among ordinary people at the situation.

Several congressmen spent an uncomfortable and well-publicized night over the grates last winter. More are planning to do so again. The experience shook them; dishevelled and weary, they took their disgust straight to the television cameras and on to Capitol Hill.

Congress has just passed the first federal legislation on homelessness, appropriating \$1 billion (\$554 million) in emergency aid for this and the coming fiscal year. An umbrella national board has been set up to distribute emergency money.

In New York, Mayor Ed Koch

dramatically brushed aside the quibbles of civil libertarians a few months ago and empowered the police and social workers to remove forcibly to shelters and hospitals those homeless people not mentally competent to look after themselves. The issue was highlighted at Christmas in a manner galling to American

Washington View

By Michael Binyon

pride when Mr Mitch Snyder, a leading activist for the homeless, accepted a \$5,000 cheque for a new shelter from — of all people — the Ambassador of the Soviet Union.

Homelessness has entered the presidential debate. The issue is a gift to the Democrats. They point out that, during the Reagan Administration's rule, federal funds for low-income housing have been cut by 70 per cent, programmes to help the poor have been reduced sharply, and 61 months of continuing economic growth have left the rich richer and

the poor poorer.

The Democrats insist that the problem cannot be confined to more city shelters or better charity work; the interlocking questions of housing, employment and social programmes — issues on which the party claims the moral high ground — must be addressed.

Senator Paul Simon, of Illinois, in a rousing speech in Iowa on Tuesday, linked homelessness to America's values and ideals, mining the rich seam of social concern and guilt that has replaced the hedonistic "me first" creed of the 1980s which crashed, dramatically and symbolically, on Black Monday.

The Republicans are on the defensive, and they know it. Senator Robert Dole, of Kansas, has spoken out on his party's uncaring image, admitting during presidential contest debates that it must reach out more to the poor, to minorities, to the have-nots as well as to the haves. While Republicans make much of the country's restored pride and entrepreneurial spirit, they are trying

to put as much distance as possible between themselves and the Wall Street yuppies whose greed is now being so mercilessly mocked in films, books and the press.

Liberals, and much of the rest of the nation, have seized on homelessness as an unacceptable human tragedy in a wealthy country, a shameful comment on laissez-faire policies. And as temperatures fall to a piercing -20°C, and the weather pundits take away another 30 or 40 degrees to allow for the wind-chill factor, Senator Simon makes a telling point in picking up a small news item from Memphis.

It was reported that "a raggedly dressed man whose body was found at a waste dump was apparently crushed to death after crawling into a trash container to escape bad weather, a sheriff's investigator said. Inspector Buck Wood, of the Shelby County sheriff's department, said a bulldozer operator found the body Monday at a dump where waste collected from trash bins was deposited."

UK boosts food aid for Ethiopia but rejects funds appeal

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Christopher Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, yesterday stepped up Britain's contribution to an international effort to avert a repetition of the 1984 famine in Ethiopia.

The Minister, who is in Addis Ababa for talks with Ethiopian officials and aid workers, announced an additional 40,000 tonnes of food aid. This brought Britain's contribution to 94,500 tonnes over the last 12 months, and total UK Government spending on Ethiopian emergency aid to £35 million.

Mr Patten is to spend the weekend visiting drought-affected areas in the north-eastern provinces and will consider whether a further British effort is needed.

The new aid will be delivered in the spring, as consignments of previously-pledged help both from Britain and other countries begin to run out. But charity workers warned that Ethiopia still faced a shortfall estimated at 366,000 tonnes.

While Mr Patten believes that Britain should be generous with famine aid, he has refused to give Addis Ababa more than token amounts for development, on the grounds that such a move would be a waste of money until the regime changes policies which he calls "Stalinist".

The Minister argues that, while lack of rain was the chief cause of the failure of last year's harvest, the lack of agricultural incentives ran a close second.

He wants Addis Ababa to stop forcing private farmers to sell most of their crops to the Ethiopian Government at fixed low prices. Its ban on the use of private hauliers to transport grain from regions which have a surplus to the drought areas will also have to go. Taken together with forced relocation and "villagisation", these practices partly explain why Ethiopia has proved only slightly better prepared for the famine than it was in 1984.

Mr Patten's concerns are fully shared by other EEC countries. In March, 1986, the 12 agreed to give Ethiopia development aid worth £160 million under the Lomé Convention — on condition that Addis Ababa reformed its policies, which it agreed to. But changes were not made and the money was not paid.

Ethiopia's intransigence is costing it £270 million. Mr Patten will be equally tough in refusing to redistribute Britain's famine aid. Addis Ababa would like Whitehall to give the food and money to the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, which is under the direct control of President Mengistu.

to's ministers. Mr Patten has no intention of obliging them.

All British Government aid avoids the commission — apart from small amounts which reach it via the EEC — by going instead to leading charities and international bodies.

There is little doubt that if Mr Patten changed this policy, some of the food would be being diverted to feed the President's troops.

First-hand evidence of this risk came from Mr Stuart Holland, the Labour spokesman on international economic affairs. In Eritrea during the 1984 famine, he saw a deserted military camp at Mersa Tek'lay which had been used to garrison 10,000 troops fighting separatists. It was littered with empty EEC food-aid packages.

Mr Patten's tough stand on development aid is expected to meet some opposition in Britain. Mr Paul Redfern, a Christian Aid official just back from Ethiopia, said: "You get the impression that Western countries are looking for excuses not to give money to the Ethiopian Government."

Ambassador Alan Woods, Administrator of the US Agency for International Development, said yesterday that Washington would continue to withhold development aid until Ethiopia reformed its agricultural policies.

Greeks unearth temple to goddess

From Mario Mediano, Athens

The remains of a temple from the 5th century BC, and fragments of the clay statue of a goddess worshipped there, have been found by Greek archaeologists exploring the Acropolis of Olynthus, an ancient coastal site south-west of the modern port of Kavala.

The excavations have exposed the foundations of a building measuring about

30 ft by 60 ft, as well as the step terraces leading to it. The blocks are of finely worked local granite, but no columns have so far been found.

Mrs Haido Koukoulou, the local guardian of antiquities, said that the area, famed in antiquity for good wine, had been colonized by the people of Thasos, a neighbouring island. The temple, which was contemporary with one on Poliochos, had been built on

the site of an earlier temple. Below this archaic level, handmade pottery of the 9th and 8th centuries BC suggested that this could be the site of Aisyme, a city mentioned by Homer.

Three small fragments of what must have been a human-sized cult statue, came from the hair, the ear and the clothes of the goddess, probably wearing a peplos. She was tentatively identified as Athena or Artemis.

France honours jazzman



A delighted Lionel Hampton, the American jazz musician, showing the medal and ribbon of the French order of Commander of Arts and Letters in Paris yesterday. Mr Hampton, aged 74, a vibraphone player and drummer, was given the award by M François Léotard, left, the French Minister of Culture. On the right is Mr Joe Rodgers, the US Ambassador.

Hong Kong synagogue row

Jakobovits halts demolition

By Clifford Longley and David Bonavia

The Chief Rabbi of Britain and the Commonwealth, Sir Immanuel Jakobovits, has stepped in to prevent the demolition of Hong Kong's 85-year-old Orthodox synagogue. Opponents of the demolition, which was proposed by the synagogue's trustees, had appealed to him to overrule the decision.

A spokesman for Sir Immanuel in London said there was one formality necessary to make sure the Chief Rabbi had jurisdiction in Hong Kong, but in view of the urgency he had given his ruling subject to that.

The trustees, who are nevertheless bound by the ruling, have been told that the demolition would only be permitted once the Chief Rabbi was satisfied that alternative religious facilities had been properly established in the Crown Colony.

The synagogue is a squat, single-storey colonial-style building with a gallery, built of brick faced with plaster. It was built in 1902 and stands on a hilly street in Hong Kong Island. The building, the trustees of which are successors to the original benefactor, Jacob Elias David Sassoon, has be-

come the centre of a controversy fuelled by Hong Kong's desperate shortage of old monuments.

Demolition was opposed by the Hong Kong Antiquities Advisory Board, which has also approached the Queen asking her to point out to the Hong Kong Government the protection given to historic buildings in Britain by the Department of the Environment. No similar provisions exist in Hong Kong.

The trustees, headed by Lord Kadoorie, wanted to sell the building for redevelopment.

Red Cross halts aid to Mozambique refugees

By Paul Valley

Tens of thousands of refugees in Mozambique have been without food for two weeks after South African-backed rebels fired on a Red Cross aircraft. The agency then suspended its flights to some 50 refugee centres which feed peasant farmers displaced by the guerrilla war.

The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva acknowledged yesterday that flights ceased before Christmas.

It is understood that a representative of the Mozambican National Resistance telephoned Geneva, reportedly from the rebels' office in

Washington, and gave a warning that any Red Cross flights operating at district level would be "blown away".

Shortly afterwards a Red Cross plane supplying refugees at the town of Caia in Sofala province was fired upon. The Red Cross delegate in Maputo, Mr Peter Stocker, ordered the grounding of the agency's DC3 and two smaller planes.

The rebels said they regarded any Red Cross assistance to people in Government-held towns as support for the Frelimo Government. They accused the Red Cross of being "pro-Frelimo".

Red Cross officials in Maputo are refusing to comment on the situation

which one Western diplomat described as "very delicate". But it is known that the Red Cross, whose duties include monitoring the Geneva Convention, have several times offered to work behind rebel lines. Such offers, which annoyed some members of the Frelimo Government, have been declined by the rebels.

Among the towns which are now without food is Inhama, one of the centres visited by Bob Geldof on his recent tour of the country. Yesterday he issued a statement expressing outrage at the latest rebel strategy.

"Inhama was once a thriving railway town but for the past three

years it has been completely cut off by rail and road because of the rebel activity. Today it can no longer be considered an economic or military target. The place exists simply as a gigantic refugee camp. It depends entirely on the Red Cross plane for the survival of several thousand people. There can be no acceptable reason for cutting off its supply of food. This is just another example of the rebel barbarism," he said.

The people of Inhama need 90 tonnes of food a month to survive. Other towns affected by the blockade to the south include Caia, which requires 85 tonnes a month and Casa Banana, which needs 175 tonnes.

Italy loses taste for Radical sweet-talk

From Roger Boyes, Rome

Italy's Radical Party, the most exotic and arguably the silliest parliamentary group in Europe, has plunged into a crisis that raises serious questions about the value of the country's system of unbridled proportional representation.

After a turbulent week-long congress in Bologna, the Radicals decided to shed their main guru, Signor Marco Pannella, who once spent a whole 20-minute slot on television gapped and handicapped to protest against restrictions on freedom of speech, had tried to create a bridge between the Radicals as a protest movement and as a parliamentary party.

This week he attempted to ease the Radicals out of the confused and confused Italian political scene — it has 13 seats in Parliament — and create a European Radical movement that would bring together every under-represented group in the European Community.

The idea would be to link British fascists with West German neo-fascists objec-

tors and Dutch homosexual priests with French animal lovers — all presumably guided by the spirit and teachings of Signor Pannella.

The Bologna congress did not think much of the party because the party is reluctant to give up its political leverage in Italy. Signor Pannella was replaced (in a vote of 527 out of 601 delegates) by an industrial manager and old crony of his, Signor Sergio Stanzani, aged 64. Signor Stanzani is now the general secretary, having beaten a male nurse, Mr Mike Ajaj, into second place.

The congress revealed some of the problems when a popular movement, representing a wide spectrum of neo-fascists, tried to squeeze itself into a parliamentary shape, like a fat woman into a tight cocktail dress. Only the extraordinary anomalies of the Italian political system of unrestrained proportional representation allows them this chance and it is, as even the most power-conscious Radicals admit, a mixed blessing.

The Radicals, founded in 1955 and active in Parliament

left-wing professor who was once charged with the kidnapping of the late Prime Minister, Signor Aldo Moro, drove straight from his prison cell to Parliament.

The election of the pornography star Cicciolina last summer pales against this record. Cicciolina combined quite sensible views — on the need for sex education in schools, for example — with child-like visions, such as the pressing need to sprinkle the world with sugar and thus bring sweetness to people's lives.

As long as this is nothing more than a noisy, eccentric campaign, it seems like a good, or at least passable, joke. But as soon as it becomes a parliamentary issue, and planes stand by to spray sugar over Afghanistan and Northern Ireland, it is time, in the view of many Italians, to think again.

At the Bologna congress the principal attack on Cicciolina was from the feminist lobby, who say that she is using her parliamentary status (she is allowed to use the title "Honourable") to promote her pornographic exploits abroad.

In Italy she is the star of such films as *Atomic Love*, *Hot Lips*, and many other under-the-counter classics. Thanks to her election, she is now developing a European following.

But the real significance of the Bologna congress is that it illustrates the need for parliamentary reform in Italy. The system that let the Radicals in also makes for short-lived governments, 47 since the fall of fascism. The Radicals and other small parties are resisting such changes because they would be the losers.

Signor Bettino Craxi, the former Prime Minister and head of the Socialist Party, favours a 5 per cent hurdle, as enforced in West Germany, that would exclude 10 out of the 14 current parties, including the Radicals who captured 2.6 per cent of the vote last summer.

Even the Christian Democrats, the dominant Italian party, is suspicious of this proposal for it would shift the balance to the left, making a natural coalition out of the Socialists and Communists.

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Six-nation tour may help to restore Cairo's prestige among Arab states

Mubarak keen to rebuild Gulf ties

By Nicholas Beeston

As he steps off the plane in Riyadh today and back into the limelight of the Arab political stage, President Mubarak of Egypt not only ends Cairo's isolation but also risks becoming embroiled in the Gulf War.

His six-nation Gulf tour is being heralded by Egyptian officials as evidence that the strongest Arab military nation is resuming its role as a regional superpower, following its readmission into the Arab fold at the summit meeting of Arab League in Amman, Jordan, last November. Nine Arab nations have restored ties with Cairo, which was ostracized by the Arab world after the Camp David treaty with Israel in 1979.

Mr Esmat Abdel-Meguid, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, said: "Mubarak's visit is an important step to bolster Arab solidarity and unity between Egypt and its brothers in the face of challenges in the Gulf and the occupied territories."

The five-day trip is expected to

focus primarily on promoting Egypt's military support for the Gulf Co-operation Council nations — Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — who support Iraq in the Gulf War but are vulnerable to retaliation from Iran.

In the second of half of 1987, Saudi Arabia experienced Iranian-inspired riots in Mecca and its tankers in the Gulf were the target of numerous attacks by Iran. Similarly, Kuwait's offshore oil installations and its tankers were targeted by Iranian missiles and mines in spite of US naval protection. Last month Bahrain arrested at least three men believed to be Iranian saboteurs.

Attention has now shifted to the land war, in which both sides are predicting a seasonal Iranian offensive on the southern front.

Egyptian officials said that under the Arab defence pact, Cairo is committed to defending other Arab League states from external attack, although they emphasized that Presi-

dent Mubarak was not about to offer overt military protection to worried Gulf states.

This caution was partly explained yesterday by reports from Cairo of the arrest of a suspected Iranian agent provocateur, a timely reminder that Egypt is not immune from Iranian-exported revolution.

Beirut (Reuters) — Libya yesterday said that a US warplane made low-level reconnaissance flights over one of its cargo ships, the *Aranta*, about 115 miles north of the Egyptian coast at Sidi Barrani. The *Libyans* said the ship was heading for Izmir, Turkey, on normal business.

Arab diplomats predict that President Mubarak will explore numerous informal military options with the Gulf states, with the purpose of encouraging Arab investment and spending in the Egyptian military industry and the economy.

Kuwait is currently considering the purchase of the European Skyguard air defence system, made

under licence in Egypt, which could be installed with Egyptian crew and trainers.

Egypt already provides arms and military "advisers" to Iraq and Kuwait, and former Egyptian Army and naval officers serve in several Arab Gulf forces. But President Mubarak has strenuously denied reports that Egypt is planning to send 10,000 combat troops to Saudi Arabia to replace an elite Pakistani brigade of mercenaries which was dissolved and sent home last month.

One priority of President Mubarak's trip will be the revitalization of the Arab Organization for Industrialization, an inter-Arab arms manufacturer in Egypt, which was abandoned by Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE in 1979.

"One of the main things he would like to see is reinvestment in AOI," an Arab diplomat said. In addition, Egypt will be looking to increase the number of its three million expatriate workers in the Gulf states and Iraq, whose remittances help its

flagging economy.

"We would also like to see increased tourism in Egypt from the Gulf states," an Egyptian official said. Saudi and Kuwaiti visitors accounted for 40 per cent of tourists last year.

But Egyptian commentators have rejected the view that the Mubarak visit is simply aimed at securing a "protection for money" deal with the Gulf states.

"Egypt realizes that its security and that of the Arab world face the same danger, in this case Iran," Mr Abdel Majid Farid, chairman of the Arab Research Centre, said. "Therefore Egypt knows that it is in its interests to move to face the regional danger."

Although details about how far Egypt is willing to commit itself militarily have still not emerged, the new-found unity among the moderate Arab states will further isolate Iran, diminishing its leverage over the Gulf states and its prospects for a victory in the war.

Palestinians take to streets after two refugees die

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Spontaneous Palestinian demonstrations flared throughout the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip yesterday over the deaths of two refugees at Mughazi Camp on Thursday night in clashes with troops.

The two, aged 15 and 20, were shot after tear gas, rubber bullets and shots in the air had failed to stop stone-throwing by crowds of youths.

It was the first such violent incident after nightfall during the current wave of unrest and indicates that another dangerous phase is beginning, with young people prepared to take on the Army at any hour.

Yesterday's protests in the Strip were concentrated in the border town of Rafah, with crowds on the Egyptian side joining in. Helicopters dispersed the protest on the Israeli side of the town by dropping tear-gas canisters, one of which injured a girl on the head. There were demonstrations throughout the West Bank, and after Friday prayers at the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, where two Israeli policemen were injured before order was restored.

The disturbances have led to the imposition of curfews on two camps in the West Bank and three in the Strip.

The military authorities announced that, up to last Wednesday, at least 30 people, mostly arrested in the past month, had been placed under "administrative detention" — imprisonment without trial on the grounds that the evidence held by the authorities is considered too much of a security risk to be revealed in an open court.

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Hunger strike by Iran exiles puts pressure on Paris

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

As an icy wind swept down the Avenue Charles de Gaulle from the Arc de Triomphe last night, the 40 Iranian exiles camped outside the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees were in surprisingly high spirits for people who have been on hunger strike for more than six weeks.

For the first time since beginning their protest against the French Government's summary deportation of 17 Mujahedin members to Gabon in west Africa last month, these relatives and sympathizers — also sworn enemies of the Khomeini regime — feel the tide of public and political sentiment is beginning to turn in their favour.

As their carefully lettered banners proclaim, the Mujahedin seek the speedy return of those expelled in the wake of France's controversial hostage deal with Iran. Even government spokesmen here no longer pretend that this crackdown was not included in Tehran's demands, and an uneasy suspicion is growing in official circles that expelling political refugees from a country proud of its reputation as *la terre d'asile* to please the Ayatollah may have been a serious mistake.

For a start, there is every indication that the hunger strikers mean business. One is already critical in hospital, at least 10 others have been taken in for treatment.

As *Le Monde* observed yesterday, France's rugged In-

It is conceivable, however, that even a death on Avenue Charles de Gaulle would not shake the resolve of the Government of the Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac. Having accused the expelled Mujahedin, on unspecified grounds, of representing a grave threat to French security, it can hardly welcome them back with open arms.

Enter the "Mitterrand factor". It is common knowledge that the French President had grave reservations about the original deportations (though not serious enough, critics snipe, to say so at the time). M Mitterrand subsequently let it be known that he is keeping a close eye on things.

Earlier this week, after receiving some of the hunger strikers' families, the President's wife, Mme Danielle Mitterrand, a veteran human rights activist, paid a "surprise" visit to the hunger strikers, well covered by the French and foreign media.

By coincidence, perhaps, that very day the President was talking to the head of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees at the Elysee Palace and an advertisement signed by more than 300 MPs, from West Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden and the European Parliament appeared in France, calling on M Mitterrand to revoke the "forced exiles".

As *Le Monde* observed yesterday, France's rugged In-



The former French Socialist Minister of Culture, M Jack Lang, listening to grievances yesterday from the families of anti-Khomeini activists at a refugee office in Paris where Iranian exiles are on hunger strike in protest against expulsions.

teriors, still in tolerably good shape, summed up the situation unblinkingly. "Some of us could die here and it might still not change the Government's mind."

● OSLO: Norway has expelled eight of the 11 Iranians sentenced for storming their country's Oslo embassy last autumn and taking several people hostage, government officials said yesterday (Reuters reports).

An Oslo court on December 22 sentenced the 11 to six months in prison for forcibly entering the embassy, vandalism, and holding seven embassy staff hostage in a three-

hour siege that ended peacefully when they surrendered to Norwegian police.

Eight of the Iranians were expelled to Sweden, France and West Germany, where they already hold residence visas. The three others have cases pending on requests to stay in Norway.

The Reagan Administration has bluntly told General Noriega, the *de facto* leader of Panama, that he should step down and allow free elections.

Mr Richard Armitage, the Assistant Secretary of Defence who has responsibility for international security affairs, was sent secretly to Panama City a week ago to meet the general and urge him to withdraw from politics. They held lengthy talks but it is not known what transpired.

The Assistant Secretary was chosen for the mission because he is the "military man" and Washington wanted "the most effective interlocutor possible", an Administration official said.

The US has for months been publicly urging General Noriega to step aside after rioting last year and increasing allegations that he is involved in drug trafficking. Of late, the general has been reluctant to meet American officials, and Mr Armitage's mission was intended to be a forceful demonstration that the US wants him to quit.

A State Department spokesman said that the visit's purpose was "to express US Government concern over developments in Panama over the last six months".

The Americans are believed to have a rough timetable in mind, in which General Noriega would retire as armed forces chief by April, along with some of his closest military associates. That would be followed by elections and improvements in the judiciary.

The Administration's hostility to General Noriega has been increased by reports that he is establishing a relationship with Libya and the Soviet Union. He sent a delegation to Tripoli last month to seek a \$200 million (£110 million) loan to counter the loss of US aid — cut because of human rights abuses.

Panama is of immense strategic importance to Washington and is the headquarters of the US Southern Command. The country's rulers have accused Washington of undermining their authority as part of a campaign to stop control of the Panama Canal being handed over to Panama.

Under new economic legislation introduced by the Kremlin, a number of European countries have already set up joint companies. But until the firm, Dinamika, was registered on December 28 by the Finance Ministry, British efforts had been frustrated by the red tape that still ties up commercial dealings with the Soviet Union.

It would be hard to imagine a less conventional businesswoman than the British first deputy director of the concern, which will be run on a 70-30 basis in favour of the Soviet side. Mrs Diana Miller, whose tiny Cambridge-based company, Gerald Computers, provides the British interest, arrived in Britain in 1933 from Berlin as a ward of Sylvia Pankhurst, the suffragette.

The British Embassy, which acknowledges the claim for the new concern as the first Anglo-Soviet joint venture, was taken aback by the amount of glowing publicity it received this week in *Pravda*. A Moscow

said: "In terms of turnover, it is fairly small beer, but in commercial terms it is a first. We hope others will soon follow."

Mrs Miller, a chain-smoker who always dresses in an old sweater and trousers, first came to Moscow 17 years ago with her translator husband —

Howe visit seals closer ties

From David Watts, Tokyo

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, begins his visit to Japan today with Japanese-British relations markedly better than a few months ago.

The principal outstanding bilateral trade issue is Japan's discriminatory taxation on whisky.

While Sir Geoffrey may press Japan to take a higher world profile, particularly on such issues as the Gulf, Japan is keen to hear his estimation of *glasnost* and the chances of success for Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader.

The Japanese will brief Sir Geoffrey on Asia, probably touching on Japan's plans for a more active role in the Cambodian problem with a planned visit to Tokyo by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Some of the toughest problems were solved towards the end of last year. A licence to start a new telecommunications business was granted to a consortium including Cable and Wireless, and four new British firms were allowed to trade on the Tokyo Stock Exchange from May this year.

Britain's exports to Japan rose 26 per cent in the first 11 months of last year and while Japan's exports increased, Britain has a surplus in invisible, or non-merchandise trade.

Sir Geoffrey will begin his stay in the semi-tropical southern island of Kyushu, after a brief stop in Tokyo, to try to see something of rural, high-tech Japan.

Instead of seeing Japan from inside official meeting rooms, he and Lady Howe will spend their first day in rural Oita prefecture, which despite having fine scenery is also a centre for high-technology manufacturing.

From there Sir Geoffrey will have a tele-conference with Mr Akio Morita, head of Sony, hundreds of miles to the north in Tokyo.

After a film interview session, Sir Geoffrey and Lady Howe will spend tonight at one of the country's oldest and most delightful hot spring resorts, Yufuin.

Tomorrow morning will start with a visit to a farmhouse in Yufuin where they will have the chance to talk to growers of rice, tea and spinach. On Monday the Foreign Secretary will have two sessions in Tokyo with his Japanese counterparts, Mr Sosuke Uno, and a meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr Noboru Takeshita.

One leading Soviet newspaper to explore the prospects of adopting the sort of computerization that has revolutionized British newspapers.

Dinamika, operating under the umbrella of Goskomstat, the state committee for publishing, will also be involved in producing software for the publishing industry.

Because the Soviet side has majority control, the overall director will be a Moscow accountant. Mrs Nina Makhrova, who first met Mrs Miller four years ago, is another speaker of the other's language fluently. Dinamika also employs a translator who speaks English with an impeccable Home Counties accent.

Mrs Miller, in her sixties, was an English-language consultant until she switched to computers four years ago. "When I discovered how much Western firms were

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Mrs Miller, right, and Mrs Makhrova, in their joint-venture computer firm's office above a Moscow massage shop.

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CONTINENTAL AIRLINES TOURS

Tensions persist as protests continue in run-up to Olympic Games

North Korea 'planning a secret war' on Seoul

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

Elite North Korean combat units are expected to engage South Korean security forces in a clandestine war in the months preceding the Seoul Olympics in September.

A senior military source told *The Times* yesterday there is a serious threat of bomb and assassination attempts, and a possibility that some of them will succeed. The source, who is familiar with North Korean tactics, said he was "not alarmed, but very cautious" about the perceived danger.

"The North has the means to cause trouble, and I think it will make an effort to be disruptive with attacks against individuals and perhaps aircraft," he said.

"I would say most of them would be aborted by counter-terrorist measures, but the odd one or two may succeed. I am quite certain the South Koreans will contain the threat, but doubt whether they will have a 100 per cent success rate."

He hastened to add that he believed the actual threat to individuals was very small, and that it would recede once athletes and officials from China and the Soviet Union — providing they participate —

began arriving in Seoul in August.

The terrorist threat may partly explain South Korea's willingness to compromise up to a point on the North's demands for co-hosting the Games. Unusually, Seoul Olympic officials have exempted Pyongyang from the January 17 deadline for accepting invitations to participate.

The source said it was important to keep doors open for dialogue. "The North Koreans must never feel boxed in to the point where their only option is violence."

A senior Asian diplomat agreed. "We have been urging Seoul to be flexible, and trying to draw Pyongyang into international forums, because we believe an isolated, frustrated North Korea is dangerous." The most likely aggressors are commandos of North Korea's SAS-type special or "unconventional" forces, one of the biggest of its kind in the world with an estimated strength of 85,000. Trained to operate in 10-man groups, they have devised means of infiltrating the heavily-defended South by air and sea.

The North has about 250



An-2 Colt aircraft, vintage biplanes fitted with sophisticated electronics which can operate at night and evade radar detection by flying slowly 50 ft above the ground. They are relatively quiet and can carry 14 fully-equipped paratroopers.

It has also used semi-submersible "intruder" boats, diesel-powered craft with ballast tanks allowing them to sail in calm seas with only six inches showing above the water, thereby sneaking under coastal radar. One was intercepted off the South Korean port of Pusan in October.

1985, after a sudden squall forced it to empty its tanks.

"Those are the ways they could do it," the source said. "I don't want to paint too dismal a picture, but they have the capability."

To deal with the threat, South Korea's defence forces will be on full alert — with a little help from their friends. There are 40,000 American servicemen in Korea, and anti-terrorist specialists from the United States and three West European countries are known to have visited Seoul in recent months.

Troops constantly patrol

coastal areas and soldiers with automatic rifles have begun patrolling Seoul's Kimpo airport.

The source discounted the possibility of a full-scale invasion by the North. "We don't believe they have the ability. They may outnumber us, but a lot of their equipment is obsolescent, their economy is in a parlous state, and their food and fuel supplies are erratic. Having said that, Kim Il Sung (the North Korean President) is unpredictable. That is part of his strength. So even though a full-scale offensive is unlikely, the South will not drop its guard."

Two South Korean cattle farmers brandishing slogan-daubed umbrellas yesterday in front of a line of riot police to proclaim their anger over plans by the Seoul Government to ease import restrictions on American beef.

Thousands of farmers joined in demonstrations in the capital (Reuters reports). They smashed windows and fought riot police at the Agriculture Ministry after failing to storm the building. The protesters hurled stones at the windows and attacked parked cars to press their demand for a meeting with Mr Kim Joo Ho,

the Agriculture Minister. He saw farmers' leaders in his office, and later told the protesters they would be compensated for losses if US imports resumed.

Earlier 1,000 riot police were called in by university authorities in the southern city of Kwangju to evict hundreds of students who had occupied part of the Chosun University campus for four months in protest against their administrators. The students threw stones and petrol bombs and set fire to a campus building. Police reported 120 arrests.

Rebels kill Aquino provincial candidate

Manila (Reuters) — Four communist rebels yesterday killed a candidate for local elections later this month in the central Philippines, bringing to 26 the number of contenders killed in five weeks of campaigning, the military reported.

Mr Tito Salazar, canvassing for votes in Genar Nabua, Camarines Sur province, was a member of President Aquino's coalition Government. The electoral commission has designated at least 20 provinces as trouble spots and the military has asked that elections be postponed in three provinces.

Crusade flops

Chur (Reuters) — Switzerland rejected a campaign to bait dog excrement by a lone crusader who failed to get a third of the 100,000 signatures needed to call a national referendum on the issue.

Poles held

Warsaw (AP) — A demonstration by an anti-conscription group, Freedom and Peace, who demanded the release of conscientious objectors, resulted in the detention of three people in western Poland.

Dry island

Flores (Reuters) — The tiny Azores island of Flores, cut off since the start of the new year by gales, has run out of petrol. Schools are closed and tourists awaiting flights marooned.

Dolphin aid

Johannesburg (AP) — Dolphins escorted back to shore three men whose yacht had capsized off the port city of East London.

Hashish haul

Brisbane (Reuters) — Police seized 1.5 tonnes of hashish and arrested six people on a yacht off Australia's north-east coast.

Milk price up

Belgrade (AP) — Yugoslavia raised the price of milk by 33 per cent in a bid to end an acute shortage of fresh milk and baby formula.

Fire kills 34

Peking (Reuters) — A fire on a Chinese train from Canton to Xian killed 34 people and injured 30.

Pearl River Radio breathes life into China's airwaves

From Robert Grieves, Canton

In this thriving South China port of six million, just 70 miles up the Pearl River from Hong Kong, the most popular radio station features Western rock music, phone-in talk shows and siren-voiced presenters who have huge followings among the young.

The station is not among the 10 foreign channels — including the BBC — which affluent Cantonese may pick up on their Japanese receivers, but a one-year-old local station dreadingly named Pearl River Economic Information Radio.

Pearl River Radio, as it is commonly called here, is anything but dull. Although it is government-run like every other radio station in China, it has made a conscious effort to abandon the stilted mix of propaganda, Peking opera and heavy Western classical music that characterizes other mainland stations.

Pearl River broadcasts each day for 19 hours and 45 minutes, as opposed to the usual eight hours a day. During the morning and evening rush-hours, traffic reports warn drivers of bottlenecks. Every hour on the hour a summary of

regional news is presented, and on the half hour 19 times a day listeners can hear reports about the local economy.

These reports form the backbone of the station's programming. Broadcasts began on December 15, 1986, with the intention of providing economic and business information for Canton's burgeoning small-merchant class.

To sugarcoat Pearl River's economic news the station planners — drawn from other radio stations in the city — used Hong Kong radio models to develop their brand of broadcasting.

Western and Chinese rock programmes, a telephone "hot line" talk-show, sports news, and programming aimed at specific interest groups, such as the elderly and teenagers, have set Pearl River Radio apart from its sister stations.

According to station surveys, the most popular Western rock stars are Michael Jackson, Madonna and the German rock group, Bap. Other programmes, with such unlikely names as *The 72 Industries*, *The 36 Schemes* and *The Silhouette of Enterprises*, tell people where jobs are in the local economy and even how to prepare for a job

interview. One programme, entitled *The Diary of Household Women*, is a managerial guide for the harried homemaker.

Pearl River Radio's top presenter is Miss Li Yiping, an attractive, diminutive woman in her mid-thirties. In 1981 Miss Li had presented a programme on another station called *Mailbox*, in which she read listeners' letters. These days she hosts *Colourful Dusk*, which mixes music and messages to friends with advice to those who write in with their problems.

A recent listeners poll, in which 310,000 letters were sent to the

station, selected Miss Li as the station's most popular personality. Each year the station receives more than one million letters from as far away as Shaanxi province in north central China.

Officials of the Canton Television and Broadcasting Bureau, which runs the station, were a bit apologetic about their popular format. They noted that the Japanese, West German and British equipment in the station's sound studios cost 2.3 million yuan (about £340,000), and said that the purpose of such spending was to help build a strong economy in Canton.

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Jan 11 1988

Robert Kilroy Silk

'Squalid camps' closer to home

More than 50,000 men, women and children are living in "circumstances of the utmost squalor", declared the Foreign Office minister, David Mellor, on seeing conditions in the Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

No doubt it is true and to be condemned. But why did he not also assemble the television cameras to make identical criticisms of the places for which he, as a British minister of the Crown, is at least partly responsible. After all, almost exactly the same number of men, women and children are languishing in "circumstances of the utmost squalor" in Britain. They are behind bars in the prisons and police or court cells of England and Wales.

The conditions in which some are caged in tiny, dingy cells for 23 hours out of every 24 are "an affront to civilized values", to use the minister's words, which echo almost precisely those used in 1980 by Dennis Trevelyan, then Director-General of the Prison Service, to describe our jails.

That is the only way to describe conditions in which three men are compelled to use a plastic bucket in the cell corner as a lavatory and join a long queue in the morning to pour its fetid contents down a sewer - that is if they've not become so enraged by the stink during the night as to have poured it out of the window for someone else to clean up. They are, to use the minister's words, "shocking and inhumane conditions".

So also are those endured by several hundred remand prisoners contained below ground in dungeon-like conditions in police and court cells. Prisoners sleep cheek by jowl on mattresses on the concrete floor, rarely have access to proper washing facilities, let alone education or recreation, and get exercise, if they're lucky, once a week. Visitors, including lawyers, talk to them through a small flap in the cell door.

David Mellor insists that Israel should abide by international convention. So should every country. It is a pity, though, that the minister who takes it upon himself to lecture the rest of the world on its moral obligations represents a government and a country that have been found wanting at the bar of international justice more times than most. No one, not even the Home Secretary, would deny that conditions in much of the penal estate are in breach of internationally agreed minimum standards.

But then he has not, he said, "seen misery as bad as this anywhere in the world".

Mr Mellor has always been a little prone to exaggeration. Some of his Tory colleagues have remarked on his propensity to go over the top in Commons debates. Most, however, must have thought he'd grown out of the need to make the headlines. But

how else can we explain conduct and his remarks, when must be aware of the "misery" the Palestinians kept in camps, the Lebanon by the cynical political intent or malign neglect, their Arab brothers? How, indeed, can a British Foreign Office minister be so ignorant of "misery" of those in the famished villages of Ethiopia, of shanty towns of Asia and South America, and Soviet Union, those dossing in the cardboard towns in London.

Even if he is unaware of all that he must know about the "squalor" and the "misery" of the wretched psychiatric wing, C1, in Holloway Prison. He ought to - he was Home Office minister for 4 years. Yet according to the testimony of a former prison officer in the unit, there is some blood and excrement "everywhere, on the walls, in the floor". You can, she said, "hear screaming, banging and crying from the unit all over the place from the women held in the 'below ground level', who 'forgot' people".

David Mellor could consider say about this - "I defy anyone visit and not be shocked".

These women, and hundreds of others, mentally disturbed or yonkers, to take but one category, by any standards being "damned human rights". Those responsible for Jabalya cannot, he postulated, "duck their responsibility for these people". That's absolute truth. Nor must they be allowed to evade them. Nor should they be responsible for our penal estate to avoid their. And Mellor, of course, one of those "these people", with direct, inescapable responsibility "administering them", has been for the last nine years.

More than this. He was acting as a minister in the Home Office, presiding over the "squalor", "misery", the "inhumane conditions", the "affront to civilized values", the "denial of human rights" and the flouting of international standards.

He did little to remedy any of this. During the period that he was government has been in office both the length of sentences and the number of prisoners have increased and conditions have worsened rather than improved. On present trends prison overcrowding will be no better 1990 than it is today.

Mr Mellor is right: we can duck our responsibility for the people. "Our job," he pompously informed the House and the television cameras, "is stand up for what is right." So it Perhaps, while we're lambasting everyone else, we could now stop putting our own house in order.

© Times Newspapers, 1988
The author was a Member of the Labour MP, 1974-86.

Peter Brimelow

Graduates of intolerance

New York

Exactly 20 years ago this month I was desperately (and unilaterally) in love with a girl with long dark hair. At the time I was a student at Sussex University, and I was interested to find that my condition had a dramatic effect on the streets of Brighton. Sometimes they sang with colour and light like an opera set. At other times they were as dark and ghastly as the backdrop in a cheap horror film. None of the inhabitants seemed to notice these sudden shifts in style.

At the time, millions of people on both sides of the Atlantic were having similar experiences. We were members of the baby boom generation, a demographic cohort that will probably have the numbers to push those younger and older around until it shuffles off this mortal coil. Quite enough happened in 1968 to make it a Memorable Year, in the language of 1966 *All About* magazine. But to us baby-boomers, 1968 is also suffused with the intensity of extreme youth. So that's why everyone else has better see it too, OK?

In America, 1968 has just celebrated 1968 with a cover story ("the year that shaped a generation"). It's worth reading as a ripe example of American Baroque prose, a combination of magniloquence and the pedantic qualification induced by assiduous fact-checkers. ("In the extravagant, dangerous, ridiculous garden of the 60s, when the young were 'forever young' as Bob Dylan's later anthem said, fierce and primal juices fired through the nerves.")

As it happens, I don't think back to 1968 with quite this enthusiasm. To begin with, I remember that some young Americans spent it dying in Vietnam. And they died in vain, largely because many of their coevals chose to have a temper tantrum and unwavering America's political leadership.

Those of us who supported the American effort in Vietnam have had bitter occasion to question the strategic and tactical aspects of the war. But after Pol Pot and the boat people there can be no further argument on the moral issue: we were right and our opponents, all of them, were wrong. They have no excuse for their mistake. An entire generation is stained by it.

Supporting the Americans in Vietnam, or dissenting from the prevailing orthodoxy in any other

brated aspect of the Age Aquarius: its fanatical intolerance. Although perhaps quarrelsome my brother and I were not politically active at Sussex, partly through shyness and partly because non-Marx groups had virtually ceased to exist on the campus. But during 1968 it dawned on us that increasing numbers of our fellow were looking pointedly at us when we passed and genera making the left-wing equivalent signs to ward off the evil eye.

At that age, peer-group pressure is a powerful force. In the conditions of 1968 it swayed even great majority of students who were primarily interested in having a good time. Political devian was not a social asset - it certainly didn't help me with my dark haired friend. Throughout the year, the handful of conservative minded students was steadily reduced by dropouts and outright apostasy.

There was no political violence on the Sussex campus to compare with what I later saw as postgraduate student in California. But after Ernest Powell's speech on immigration in April 1968, the left began physically "out" of the campus any conservative speaker it came to view as "racist".

The attitude of the Sussex authorities was instructive. Not only did they refuse to intervene but they hinted broadly that a ourselves would be blamed for an disruption. Not even an editor in *The Times* could alter the determination to lead a quiet life - a quiet left-wing life. It was a first introduction to the unbridled relationship that exists between liberals and the hard left.

Not all scars last forever. After many years of fascination with dark hair, I suddenly found myself married to a blue-eyed blonde. My wife was at a boarding school in Canada in 1968. The year's epical events, which in her country included the advent of Pierre Trudeau, seem to have made no impression on her at all. She does remember noticing, however, that the heroine of the 1968 movie *The Graduate* - "Mrs Robinson" - the hit song - wore a magnificent leopard of an ecologically endangered leopard. A fit symbol for a profoundly flawed age.

The author is a senior editor at the Times.

40 years of getting there

by Rodney Cowton

—Transport Correspondent—

Faced with a government policy of selling off many of the family jewels, it is hardly surprising that British Rail fought shy of celebrating the 40th anniversary on New Year's Day of the nationalization of the railways. Indeed, the events of those 40 years provide little cause for celebration.

Today, however, while there is still much to criticize, and BR is under severe financial pressures, the railways are in the middle of a buoyant period of innovation, with about £3 billion earmarked for capital investment over the next five years.

The four great railway companies, the London Midland and Scottish, Great Western, London and North Eastern and the Southern, served the country gallantly during the Second World War but emerged from it with exhausted rolling stock and a serious backlog of investment. These problems had still not been fully overcome when growing competition from road vehicles began to eat into the railways' passenger and freight revenue in the mid-1950s.

At various times the railways have been served by some of the best managerial talent in the country, drawn from industry, politics, the City and the armed forces. But for years the board seemed unable to disentangle the potentially viable from the hopelessly loss-making but, in many

cases, socially desirable services. Although earlier studies had been undertaken, it was the 1963 Beeching report which crystallized the issue. In its annual report for that year the board said that, with one third of the railway system carrying only 1 per cent of total traffic, it intended to disperse with light or irregular traffic unsuitable for movement by rail.

The advent of a Labour government stopped the full implementation of the Beeching report, which would have roughly halved many aspects of rail activity. Nevertheless, operational routes fell from almost 17,000 miles in 1963 to about 11,500 in 1972 and to the present 10,300.

Staffs have fallen from more than 800,000 in the early 1950s to about 140,000 today - a result, in part, of the sale of hotels, farms, hoverscraft, road haulage and other interests as BR has increasingly concentrated on its central task of running a railway. That process continues today. The railway workshops, once among the pillars of British industrial activity, are now pitifully diminished. Those incorporated in the subsidiary British Rail Engineering are to be privatized this year.

The government subsidy for unprofitable but socially necessary passenger services has been reduced by 25 per cent in three years to £720 million in 1986/87, with a target of £555 million by 1989/90. From April this subsidy will be paid only for services operated by Network SouthEast, burdened by London commuter traffic, and in the provinces outside the InterCity express services. All other services, including InterCity, are expected to be self-supporting.

This government pressure is criticized by opposition parties and passenger representative groups. They argue that the financial objectives are likely to be achieved only at the expense of unacceptably lower standards.

Despite this, investment spending is running at record levels. Electrification of the London, Edinburgh and Great Eastern routes is the biggest capital scheme for 20 years. New rolling stock is planned for the provincial routes, for Network SouthEast and for the electrified east and west coast routes.

Stations all over Britain are being brightened, modernized and commercially exploited as never before. In London, a partnership

with private capital is exploiting Liverpool Street's potential as a prime development site on the edge of the City. Waterloo has more than 50 retail outlets and a shopping centre has been developed over the platforms at Victoria. Pullman lounges as smart as anything the airlines can boast are being provided in some stations for those who can afford the first-class fare. And - something inconceivable in the immediate post-Beeching years - new stations are being opened.

Along with the improvements and innovation, and the more precise tailoring of services to demand, there is a greater insistence that individual services should pay their way. This can cause pain to some passengers, as when sleeper trains to the North-east are eliminated, stops made for the benefit of only a handful of people are deleted from express timetables and passengers with standard-class tickets can no longer breakfast in the first-class dining car.

Standards of service on some routes will remain bad or variable until the investment in new rolling stock and other facilities comes through. But today the best of BR is very good and within a few years will be substantially better. The test will be its ability to raise the standards of the average or poor towards those of the best.

Robin Oakley on the gains from Mrs Thatcher's visit, and their possible use

African bridgehead

With her press secretary nursing a bruised stomach and three of her staff in tears, Mrs Thatcher could have been forgiven for ending her African travels. But as she settled back in Britain last night she could reasonably consider her "study visit" a success.

Before she left for Kenya and Nigeria one diplomat remarked that dispatching her to Africa was like depositing a polar bear in a jungle - the consequences for visitor and visited could not be known. But despite the scuffles and protests in Kano the chemistry worked, for as the Prime Minister said when she left Kenya: "Nothing can take the shine off this."

Delighted by her reception and captivated by the Kenyans, she talked of wanting to return for a holiday. From a woman whose usual idea of rest and recuperation is retiring to Chequers with three volumes of *Sizewell* B reports that is praise indeed.

Her good housekeeping instincts were soothed by the evident wit and use being made of British aid, her praise for President Moi, talking of his wisdom and the footprints he had made in history, was extravagant. It was all the more remarkable given that Moi, a comparative moderate on the South African sanctions issue, did not make her the concession of saying that while they must agree to differ on methods he was convinced that their objectives were the same.

Mrs Thatcher's African adventure had been carefully planned: the Nigerian visit was brief to the point of absurdity and there were omissions from the Kenyan programme, presumably deliberate. For example, Mrs Thatcher saw nothing of the seamy side of Kenyan life. Asians appeared to be excluded from her programme. She was shown the country she wanted to believe in - the free enterprise example of Africa based on agricultural smallholdings and individual initiative.

There was no talk of the need to provide manufacturing jobs for the rapidly rising and better educated population, no explanation of the difficulty of persuading Kenyan smallholders to plough back their profits in a good year rather than go off on a binge, for this was Mrs Thatcher's testing of the African waters for what she



The Thatchers show off some of their gifts in Kenya. Africa remains high on her agenda.

clearly intends to be a greater involvement in the continent.

There are no secrets about what she hopes for next: she is openly angling for an invitation to Zimbabwe and other front-line states. But she will go to South Africa only when she believes she can achieve something positive towards dismantling apartheid.

Her determination to improve relations, both personal and governmental, between Britain and Africa showed in her choice of language and her acceptance that it is possible for others to hold different views on how to reach that objective.

She said quite clearly that she understood the resentment of black Africans - "I would not want to be judged by the colour of my skin". A simple sentence, but it did more for her image in Africa than a speech full of arguments on the economics of aid to front-line states. She subtly shaded her line on the African National Congress, saying only that the British government did not accept it as the sole representative of black South Africans. And she ruled out a visit to South Africa for the moment because she admitted that it would be misconstrued in the rest of the continent.

She did not change her line on sanctions simply because she was in Africa: she would probably not

have been respected if she had. But there was a greater emphasis on her repugnance for apartheid and there were quieter words too in her talks with President Moi and President Babangida about what Britain is seeking to achieve with its aid programme in different countries.

All this has led some Kenyans to accept that her trip was more than a defensive measure designed to fend off criticism at the next Commonwealth conference that she had stayed away from Africa for so long because she is not interested in its problems.

The signs are that Mrs Thatcher has been bitten by the African bug. She is intrigued with the Thatcherite remedies being used to tackle Nigeria's economic problems by Babangida and his Armed Forces Ruling Council - privatization of state companies, the lifting of price controls and the ending of subsidies. The anti-Thatcher demonstrations in Nigeria continued until the moment she left, but there was no effective challenge for those of us travelling with her to assess the underlying Nigerian reaction to her visit.

There was no doubting the practicality of Babangida's approach, laying down a line on sanctions every bit as robust as her own while being perfectly genuine in his welcome and desire for

exchanges on other issues. The next trip will surely be longer: both the president and his new foreign secretary, the approachable Major-General Idi Nwachukwu, laid such stress on the shortness of her stay that Downing Street will surely be more careful of African pride on her next venture.

As for that eight-year gap since her last visit to Africa for the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in 1979 which preceded the Rhodesian settlement, it is clear that Mrs Thatcher now regrets it. But she does offer a reasonable explanation.

For three months before that conference, she says, she was dealing with a stream of visiting African leaders to discuss the future of Zimbabwe. And because that was in the very first year of her premiership she says it made a deep impression, leaving her with the feeling that she had been very much involved with Africa and did not need to visit the continent again for a period. That period grew to eight years before it had fully registered how her absence would be interpreted.

The omission has now been made good and a British prime minister who clearly intends her third term to focus at least as much on world affairs as on the inner cities now has Africa high on her agenda.

Watch out or the Crips will get you

Crossword compilers may have tortuous minds but by and large they are a harmless, peaceable lot. The exemplar of our craft, I like to think, is Adrian Bell, the composer of the first *Times* crossword, whom I picture walking in his garden and plucking out of the air such felicitous as "the cylinder is jammed (5,4)", *SWISS ROLL*.

Why, then, has this pastoral scene suddenly become a battleground, with enemies everywhere sapping and mining to break our codes and expose our secrets? All sorts of books now purport to tell you how to beat the compiler. There are solvers' dictionaries that give you lists of famous people, geographical features, the emperors of Rome and so on. One such work even has 32 entries under the heading "Inflamation", including the word gorge, inflammation of a cow's udder. (I can tell the publishers here and now that *The Times* crossword is going to limp along without this common little word, so their book is already seriously defective).

Other books consist solely of computerized lists of words, which enable the solver to discover that the nine-letter word he seeks, of which the third he knows to be L and the sixth he suspects to be A, is BALALAIKA (that's if it isn't BALACLAVA). Still others list the codewords used to indicate anagrams or reversals, and all the other conventional signs that have accreted over the years.

What I don't understand is why solvers should want these short cuts. If they are doing the crossword for amusement, why curtail their book is already seriously defective).

it not like going out jogging for exercise but getting a taxi home?

As Mr R.M. Ward of Solihull said in a letter to *The Times* last July, apropos of our competitors who solve championship puzzles in less than 30 minutes: "I should be most disappointed if anything like this happened to me." He goes on to take a couple of hours and mender through his reference books, enjoying the journey perhaps more than the destination. And other solvers are miffed that their hard-won knowledge of compilers' tricks is now being sold like a schoolboy's crib.

As a compiler, I suppose I ought to deplore these appalling disclosures. Certainly if any of the suppliers of these cribs turned out to be members of the compiler's guild I would feel bound to follow the government's lead and demand a permanent ban on all this *Spycatcher* material. But as compilers never retire, they are not likely to turn informer for any cozening publisher. And anyway I do not think the cribs are going to do us much damage. The English

language is so gloriously flexible that Humpty Dumpty may be forgiven for boasting that any word he used meant just what he chose it to mean. By the time the cribber has sorted out which of the possible meanings the compiler had in mind, with any luck his train of thought will have been hopelessly derailed.

I do not think the cribs would give much help, for example, to the three clues that seem to have given most difficulty lately:

"Born to a single parent, that's a limitation (7)". MAXIMUM. Max Born, 1882-1970. British nuclear physicist and Nobel prize winner.

"Join a shy Lady Jane (4)". GREY. A shy joined - asky, or GREY.

"Water - originally one of the elements (8)". TUNGSTEN. Original letter of water, W, is the symbol for tungsten or wolfram.

A crib might just have helped Dr C.H. Neville-Smith, of Salisbury-by-the-Sea, Cleveland, who could find NYALA hidden in the clue "Tiny alarm reveals pres-

ence of wild animal", but not in his dictionary, which perversely insisted on spelling it NYALA. But then I would have been deprived of his enchanting plea:

No lexicons come to my aid.
Does it squirm through the floor
boards in the parlour,
Or flourish in cheap lemonade,
Give rides at the village gala,
Ski at Uppsala, outrun the
impala,
Or lurk, like a snail, in the
shade?
Has anyone seen a Nyala?
I'm clearly not making the
grade.

For those who want to learn how to do *The Times* puzzles without resort to cribs, but with access to plenty of helpful hints, there is a new and wonderful device. As an unconstructed paper and pencil man, I have to confess it is beyond me, though it will be child's play to most of today's children. It is a computer version of 60 crosswords that appeared in *The Times* in 1983, available in disc or cassette, for BBC Micro, Master Compact, Electron and Model B machines.

It is a biddable sort of creature that will give varying degrees of help to the solver when he asks for it from a programme developed by David Alenhead and his father Edmund - my predecessor in this enviable job. *The Times Computer Crosswords* are available from Vector Services Ltd, 13 Denington Road, Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 2RL (£9.99 - £14.95 depending on version).

John Grant

SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

What Skatie did

This column is, of course, the champion of the underdog, and so this week I salute England's newest and most unfortunate national team: women's ice hockey. They have just played in their first international tournament, in Switzerland, and are now back home counting the pieces. "Oh yes, it's just as rough as the men's game," was the blithe comment of player and PR person Sue Parsons, taking the week off work with a dislocated collarbone. Other players are nursing knee, groin and hip injuries and one suffered a triple fracture to a shoulder. I wish I could report that they had something to show for it, but they lost 5-1 to Denmark, 4-1 to Sweden and 14-0 to a Canadian college side. Then, leading Czechoslovakia 4-3 with a minute to go, they lost 5-4. And the trip cost them £400 each. Undaunted, they will resume practising between 12.30am and 2 on alternate Fridays, and between 11pm and midnight on Tuesdays - the only times they can get a rink to themselves - for the European Cup in April.

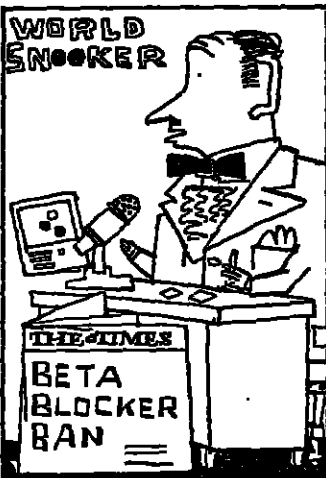
Pot and pop

Self-deprecation is not a normal trait in sportsmen, let alone champions, but Steve Davis is an exception. He is venturing, for the love of it, into music promotion. Nicknamed "Steve", "Interesting" Davis by *Spitting Image*, he has called his new company Interesting Promotions and makes his debut with a band called Magma at the Bloomsbury Theatre next week.

Spot kicks

The World Cup, too, can damage your health. I read a fascinating account in *The Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* headlined "World Cup Urticaria": the case of a 38-year-old man who suffered from a horrible rash on two occasions, each time precipitated by England's terrible performances. The first occurred during that ghastly England-Portugal game that England scored the only goal. It stayed 36 hours. During the England-Morocco game four days later he suffered another attack when Ray Wilkins was sent off. The journal concludes: "This is the first reported case of an urticarial rash apparently caused by the frustration of watching England play football." Tell the man not to watch England play cricket.

BARRY FANTONI



'He's looking at the pink pill and taking the blue'

Close harmony

Football programmes and their questionnaires on the players (favourite singer: Madonna. Favourite food: steak and chips) seldom leave many surprises. But it took our Man about when, as he was covering Portsmouth v Manchester United, he read that Kevin Dillon's favourite pop stars were the Beverly Sisters. Our Man was Vince Wright, son of the former England captain Billy Wright and his Beverly Sister wife. He tells me his mother is writing a note of appreciation to the nostalgic Mr Dillon.

● Quote of the week: from Trevor Harris, lightweight prop at Exeter rugby club, suspended for 13 months after being sent off for the fifth time: "I'm still too upset to think about what I'm going to do, but I may take up karate."

Up the blues

It is the custom at Crystal Palace to sell videos of home games to the faithful and, given Palace's somewhat robust defence, there are plenty of jokes about X certificate stuff. But those who bought the last horror show video saw something even more shocking than the Palace back line. After a few minutes of football, the video turned into a blue movie.

'Ello, 'ello

Yevail of the Vauxhall-Opel League should not be all that overawed by Queens Park Rangers, their FA Cup opponents today: their manager, Brian Hall, has made hundreds of trips to Loftus Road to see QPR in action. Not, I hasten to add, strictly in the cause of football. Hall was formerly a policeman based in West London and was on crowd control duty every other Saturday. That was in the 1960s, the days of the unforgettable Rodney Marsh. QPR offers no such delights these days - and naturally, this column will be cheering for the underdogs of Yevail.

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DIVIDED DIPLOMATS

Yesterday the United Nations envoy, Mr Marrack Goulding, was the latest in an apparently endless stream of critical international visitors to the Israeli-occupied territories on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. When he later puts his views to the Israeli government, it will be, however, not to the Prime Minister, Mr Shamir, but to the Foreign Minister, Mr Peres. This has been widely reported as a snub - which in some sense it is. It also provides a reminder of the real significance of this week's extraordinary diplomatic events.

It is often the case in communal conflicts that, if the divisions between the warring communities remain unchanged, the divisions inside those communities become the most important. Just as a key conflict in the occupied territories is between moderate and irredentist Palestinians, so the battle for control of Israeli foreign policy is pivotal.

At the moment, Mr Peres is having a hard time pushing Mr Shamir, his coalition colleagues and the electorate - who will give a verdict by the end of this year - towards the idea of an international peace conference. International pressure for an easing of the immediate tension in Gaza which has caused so many deaths is understandable, but contributions which increase Israeli defiance will not help Mr Peres.

While Mr Goulding was experiencing the cold backwash of the visits by British politicians, the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, was strongly supporting the indignation at the conditions of Palestinian refugees expressed by his junior, Mr Mellor. He could do little else, considering the reaction which had been provoked, and Mr Mellor's words, on a strict construction, did not make new policy.

But diplomatic communication depends as much on context and omission as it does on the words themselves. Mr Mellor said that Israel was to blame for affairs in the occupied territories - which is a dangerous oversimplification. In addition to being misleadingly unqualified and undiplomatically dramatic, Mr Mellor may also have helped produce the opposite effect from that which he desires.

It is interesting to speculate upon Mrs Thatcher's feelings about this as she returns from Africa. Progress in the peace process - including careful support for Mr Peres - has been pursued by the Prime Minister for some

time. With less international attention than she has lately been accustomed to, she has become the most important proponent of an international conference outside the region.

It is important that she remain so. Of the leading European nations, France and Germany do not offer themselves as brokers between Israel and the Arabs or between Israel and the United States. President Reagan would be the most important ally of a peace conference if his government had not been so belatedly converted to the idea and if his international stature was not shrunk by the imminent end of his presidency.

There are enormous problems to be solved before such a conference can gather, let alone make a useful agreement. But one of the biggest is the disagreement within Israel about the level of compromise necessary in order to consolidate the long-term security of the Jewish state. At present, Israel can neither assimilate nor enfranchise the population of the territories nor let it go for fear of creating mortal dangers to that state.

Indefinite delay puts the internal security of the country at risk from demographic change: three-quarters of the population of the West Bank is under the age of 25. The end of the occupation has to be used as a bargaining counter to buy security for the future: "territory for peace". All diplomatic efforts have to be judged by their effect in promoting this. Mr Mellor's do not look good.

They are likely to encourage those who hold the dangerous illusion that the only policy left is to do nothing. When a newly flexible Soviet foreign policy is rethinking its ends and means in the Middle East; when Islamic revivalism is a growing force in the occupied territories, events may drift in dangerous directions if western powers cease their efforts. Attempts to go forward may only result in everything staying in the same place; but, with the stakes so high, even stability of that kind is an achievement worth working for.

Mrs Thatcher has been pushing the conference with the important trio of King Hussein, Mr Peres and President Reagan. She has uniquely effective relationships with all three - and with Mr Gorbachov. If she pursues her line, she should carry that influence through to the new American presidency which will be inaugurated 12 months from now. Such diplomacy does not gain from grandstanding in Gaza.

SCHOOLED UNDER THATCHER

The Prime Minister has no great cause for distress at the findings of a recent study mounted by two scholars, Mr Adrian Furnham and Mr Barrie Gunter, into the views of young people who have been at school during her time in office. Young heirs to the Thatcher revolution are, indeed, not wildly optimistic; but neither, it would seem, have they plunged into total despair.

The crucial point seems to be that, as far as their own personal futures are concerned they are not notably downhearted. When asked questions, however, about the country's future, they show that degree of scepticism which a young man or woman is required to display in order to maintain a reasonable reputation for being "grown-up and sophisticated".

Even so, despair does not take over; they do not believe there is going to be a nuclear holocaust, though, on the whole, they dislike nuclear weapons. They think that terrorism will increase and so will the breakdown of law and order. If they watched the television regularly, how could they think otherwise?

Many more adolescents than adults, it would appear from a comparison of surveys are compared to contemplate breaking the law - for example, in obedience to conscience. But questions about devotion to the law are notoriously difficult to answer honestly.

Those who would say that they were never in any circumstances willing to defy a parking regulation are, on the whole, not to be believed. Equally, most people of all ages retain at the back of their minds the conviction that there are circumstances, maybe hypothetical and scarcely to be credited, in which conscience would oblige them to resist a lawful command. One wonders whether there is any point in asking this question to anybody of any age.

The full particulars of the study will not be available until they are published in a book in July. In the meantime, however, the picture emerges reasonably clear. The young are sceptical, perhaps not deeply concerned with public issues and reasonably content with their own prospects. Certainly, they would not seem to be bursting with the kind of idealism which was once supposed to be a characteristic of their age.

They are not singing with Wordsworth (in relation to the French Revolution): "bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, but to be young was very heaven". They have none of the spirit of 1968, the year of student rebellion. Their eyes are fixed, one suspects, on their own chances of a job and even, perhaps, of a mortgage.

They even seem to have some respect for large private and public institutions. They think the nationalized industries are well run. They appear to like the banks - though Dr Furnham thinks this might be cynically attributed to the fact that they have less experience of their working than adults do. The young do not seem to be opposed to the monarchy (young women strongly favour it), though their enthusiasm does not quite equal that of their elders.

"Thatcherism" has two aspects - an appeal to reasonable self-interest and a vision of national greatness. The second does not seem quite to have carried conviction with the young, but the first has. When consulted about unemployment (this part of the survey has not yet been published), the young seem in general to have taken the view that if they used their wits, were in the right place at the right time and worked hard, they would have nothing to fear. Mrs Thatcher should be pleased with that.

PLAY THE GAME

It is now more than two years since *The Times* first drew attention to the decline of team sports in state schools. All across the country was a bleak picture of empty playing fields, fewer inter-school matches, teachers working to rule and refusing to supervise games. Part of the problem was a direct result of the then teachers' pay dispute; part stemmed from the political belief, particularly widespread in London, that competitive sports were elitist and thus unacceptable.

The Inner London Education Authority set up a working party to investigate these charges. This has now reported. Contrary to expectations (certainly among the ILEA's political masters) it has recommended that competition and excellence should be encouraged in physical education lessons. The new report, which will be formally published on Monday, suggests that the ILEA should "officially encourage" those teachers who wish to coach sport and organize inter-school matches.

The very fact that it has to use these words implies that the ILEA's critics have been correct. The authority has not done enough in the past. Previously the ILEA has not encouraged inter-school matches in school time, feeling they should take place only after school or at weekends. More than encouragement may be needed if these problems are to be solved in the current climate of uneasy industrial relations in the classroom.

It is important, however, to keep a balanced view of how competitive sport can be best promoted among the young. Much of the agitation for competition and excellence has

come from the governing bodies of team sports such as cricket, Rugby Union and football, who have seen their reservoir of potential players diluted by other activities. While their fears are understandable, they have been given probably too much weight in the argument.

The belief that their team games are uniquely competitive and inherently superior as a method of physical education is wrong. The Olympic Games are largely made up of individual sports such as athletics and judo, gymnastics and weightlifting. Cricket, for example, has a more limited value to health and fitness than swimming, which the working party rightly says should be taught to all pupils.

Because team games need exact numbers for matches and because so many pupils would rather do a part-time job on Saturdays than represent their schools, there are more problems for cricket, Rugby and football than political ones. The ILEA should help schools to overcome these, not only for the sake of future national pride in winning world cups but for the co-operative skills which team games bring.

Traditional team games certainly have a role in the curriculum. But they should be part of physical education, not dominate it, as some members of the governing bodies would like.

Much of modern physical education is now rightly aimed at encouraging pupils to try a wide range of activities so that they will find at least one they will continue after school. They will be given a greater opportunity to do this if the ILEA accepts its working party's recommendation.

Time of essence in abortion limit

From Professor Stuart Campbell
Sir, Discussion papers on David Alton's Abortion (Amendment) Bill assume that the proposed limitation is 18 weeks' gestational age. Obstetricians and statisticians quite reasonably believe this to mean 18 completed weeks, counting from the first day of the woman's last menstrual period, for all obstetric definitions and measurement charts are based on the concept of completed weeks.

For example, a "pre-term" delivery is the birth of a baby before 37 completed weeks; the AFP (alpha-fetoprotein) screening test for spina bifida is carried out between 16 and 18 completed weeks and ultrasound predictions of gestational age are based on completed weeks of gestation.

The Alton Bill does not use the expression "completed weeks". In sub-section (i) of the Bill it is proposed that legal abortion will be restricted to "any time up to the beginning of the eighteenth week of gestation" which in effect is 17 completed weeks.

The Bill seeks to limit termination of pregnancy to 17 weeks' gestational age and all calculations should be based on this premise. STUART CAMPBELL, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry, Denmark Hill, SE5, January 5.

Israel and Arabs

From the Director of Christian Aid
Sir, Mr Mellor's recent visit to the Israeli-occupied territories has brought home the harshness of life under the military occupation and the glaring economic disparity between conditions there and in Israel. As one of the voluntary agencies which has been working to alleviate poverty and suffering in the occupied territories since 1967, we are thankful that the daily and deteriorating experiences of those with whom we work have now been highlighted so sharply by the British Government.

We welcome the Government's firm stand on this matter and hope it will be maintained. Britain, as a signatory, should now require Israel, as a co-signatory, to abide by the fourth Geneva Convention governing the conduct of occupying forces. This calls for the protection of the civilian population and explicitly forbids deportations.

There can be no end to poverty and violence and no real progress towards peace until the views of the Palestinians themselves are taken seriously and those living in the occupied territories are given the right to self-determination. Given its historical responsibilities in the region Britain should now press hard for renewed negotiations and insist that the Palestinian population's own representatives be included. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL TAYLOR, Director, Christian Aid, PO Box 100, London, SE1, January 6.

Festive images

From Mr Julian A. C. Royle
Sir, The Christmas-card-verses-are-disappearing experience of Lord Norwich (January 7) is reassuring. It confirms our own belief that people are glad to use the opportunity to add their own words and thoughts to an appropriate illustration.

The spread of literacy is not as general as one would wish - so this is encouraging evidence of an articulate public sharing at a time of great good will a little life-enhancement.

Thirty years ago we were approached by a delightful American who had created over 10,000 greeting card verses. He was shocked to learn that we had no use for his literary talent but he channelled his enthusiasm and became a most successful card salesman for us in the United States.

Yours faithfully, JULIAN A. C. ROYLE, Managing Director, Royle Publications Ltd (Greeting cards, calendars and fine art publishers), Royle House, Wenlock Road, N1, January 7.

Pelicans in the park

From Mr Anthony Montague Browne
Sir, When I was a resident clerk in the Foreign Office some 40 years ago there were usually three pelicans on the lake in St James's Park (reports, December 17, 18; letters, December 28, January 4). They were known as the Chiefs of Staff; they spent their time quarrelling about the division of their rations and two of them were habitually in a corner plotting against the third.

Yours faithfully, ANTHONY MONTAGUE BROWNE, 46/47 Pall Mall, SW1, January 4.

From Miss Rosalind Clayton
Sir, John Evelyn is reported as having seen a pelican in the park in 1665 (letter, January 4), but Peter Mundy, the Cornish sailor and diarist, wrote in 1663: "Among my melancholy and solitary walks for diversion I went sometimes to St James's Park. Since his coming his Majesty hath caused much cost and labour to be bestowed in making it level and taking away many houses built there in these later times. There is a new pond newly half a mile [a length and

Continuing struggle in the Church

From the Provost of Bradford
Sir, My beloved friend and mentor, Lord Blanch (January 4), cries "peace, peace", when there is no peace. I have not yet heard any of Lord Blanch's former colleagues on the Bench accepting the validity of any of the contents of the *Crockford's* preface. Concentration on the personal criticism has enabled us to avoid the weight of a valuable piece of critical analysis by a godly scholar of the Church he greatly loved and ably served.

So the Church "is in no doubt about its continuing role in the life of the nation"? In so far as Christian truth has been marginalised and placed in the private sector, in so far as belief is treated - and has been ever since the Enlightenment - as a second-class substitute when there is insufficient knowledge available, fine. The Church is content to occupy the ghetto society willingly provides for it. Religion belongs to the Court and Social page.

Belief and dogma are distorting lenses which prevent us seeing things as they really are. Who says so? The children of the Enlightenment, who tell us that to see things as they really are is to see things without the hypothesis of God.

This is the prevailing fallacy in Britain. This is the lie with which the Church is idly complacent. This is the lie which causes politicians to say, "Keep religion out of politics; educationists to say, 'Keep Christianity out of the classroom'; jurists to say, 'Beware with an oath in the name of Almighty God'; and neighbours and colleagues to say, 'By all means have your faith - I admire you for it - but keep it to yourself'.

This is the continuing role of the Church in the life of the nation and Lord Blanch is content. Sir, I am not.

The Church has to come out of its ghetto and Christian truth be once more established in the public sector. If Mrs Thatcher wants to clean up Britain, then

Value from the peers

From Mr A. E. Holdsworth, QC
Sir, Your proposal (leading article, January 4) for more "working peers" might, I suggest, be dovetailed into the following plan for a simple but lasting reform of the House of Lords that would retain its present advantages but put it on a logical constitutional basis:

1. At the beginning of each Parliament a limited number of the existing peers (supplemented, if need be, by new peers) would be chosen as "voting peers" (VPs).
2. These VPs would be selected by the political parties in proportion to the votes cast for them respectively in the preceding general election.
3. All peers would be entitled to take part in the proceedings of the House as now, save only that voting would be limited to VPs.

It would be convenient if the number of VPs were the same as the number of members of the House of Commons. The Lord Chancellor would be a VP *ex officio*.

Special provision could be made for crossbench peers. Only rarely would the election of independents to the Commons provide the basis for crossbench VPs. But there could be two classes of voting. There could be a "binding" vote by the VPs and a "persuasive" vote by the crossbenchers.

This "persuasive" vote could be more than academic. The significance of a vote by the House of Lords lies not merely, and often not mainly, in the particular decision taken, but in its effect on Government thinking or on public opinion.

Sounds unto the Lord

From Mr K. D. Sholl
Sir, An analysis of the church services announced in *The Times* on Saturdays for the past year shows that the following were the 12 most popular composers of anthems: Byrd, 52 anthems; Palestrina, 46; Victoria (Victoria), 34; J.S. Bach, 28; Handel, 21; Gibbons, 20; Purcell, 19; Tallis and S. Wesley, 18 each; Mendelssohn, 17; Lassus, 16; Howells, 15.

The 12 most frequently sung anthems were: Ave Maria (Byrd), 22 times; The Spirit of the Lord (Elgar) and O quam gloriosum (Victoria), 20 each; Ave verum corpus (Mozart), 19; Ave verum corpus (Elgar), 18; I was glad (Purcell), 18; Beati quorum via (Stanford) and Blessed be the God (S.S. Wesley), 17 each; Greater love (Ireland), 16; Haec dies (Byrd), 15; Locus iste (Bruckner) and O how glorious (Harwood), 14 each.

Three hundred and fourteen composers were listed and 1,023 anthems.

The anthem was authorised to be sung at the end of morning and evening prayer, by the royal injunctions of 1559.

Yours faithfully, K. D. SHOLL, 20 Orchard Estate, Cambridge, January 2.

New rail hazard

From Dr T. L. Chambers
Sir, The Marchioness of Anglesey (December 30) should be warned that not all intrusive railway carriage telephone conversations concern business. I recently witnessed an unseemly but diverting marital row conducted through that medium.

Yours faithfully, TIMOTHY CHAMBERS, 4 Clyde Park, Bristol, Avon.

Frozen waste

From Mr Enrico Cascarini
Sir, How much did Dr Lloyd pay for his over-aerated ice cream (December 29)?

The British are notorious for buying ice cream the way they buy wine - "If it's cheap enough it's good enough".

Superior (heavier) ice creams are available. They cost more.

Yours etc, ENRICO CASCARINI, Joe's Ice Cream Parlour, 324 Mumbles Road, Oystermouth, Swansea, West Glamorgan, January 5.

Cost of closing universities

From Professor Emeritus J. M. Cassels, FRS
Sir, I spent the Christmas and new year season in the Merseyside area with the intention, among other activities, of doing some academic work at the University of Liverpool.

To my disappointment I found the university closed from the evening of Monday, December 23, to the morning of Monday, January 4. For 14 days its facilities, valued at £72 million in the latest accounts, were inaccessible. The 3,974 staff were on paid holidays, not counting against annual leave.

A quarter of a century ago, when I first came to the university, a 5½-day week was in force, and the seasonal holidays including weekends would have been only six days. Thus an extra eight days off have been awarded to itself by Liverpool University, and no doubt most other universities have done likewise.

The Save British Science group has been asking the Government, on behalf of taxpayers, to invest several more billions of pounds per annum in facilities for UK fundamental research. That is a well-justified request, but should not be the Government, as a *quid pro quo*, invite the academic members of the group to see to it that the existing facilities in UK universities are better used in future, on days between Christmas and New Year, and on Saturday mornings?

The extra cost of a minimum of service staff, even at reasonable overtime rates, would be negligible in comparison with the benefits obtainable.

Yours etc, J. M. CASSELLS, 18 St Michael at Pica, Norwich, Norfolk, January 4.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 9 1848

Cholera is believed to have reached Britain in the autumn of 1831. According to *The London Encyclopaedia*, in 1848-49 14,000 people died out of 30,000 cases.

THE CHOLERA AT TOOTING

Yesterday, in pursuance of a request from the General Board of Health, a return was made of the number of fresh cases of cholera that had occurred from 2 o'clock p.m. on Sunday to 2 o'clock p.m. yesterday. The return stated the number of such cases to be 10, the number of cases of diarrhoea 4, the number under medical treatment 118. We were informed, however, that six more children were sent before 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon and that seven more deaths had occurred at that hour. With regard to the children removed to their parishes in London, we understand that in St Pancras 12 have been attacked with cholera, and 4 have died; in the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, several new cases are occurring and 5 of the children are dead. In the Tooting Asylum itself the total number attacked has now amounted to 260, and the deaths to 84.

Yesterday a meeting of the board of guardians of the parish of St. Luke, Chelsea, was held, for the purpose of considering where the pauper children of the parish, who have hitherto been at Mr. Drouet's establishment, should be placed. Communications were read from the General Board of Health, and from the Poor Law Board, recommending the removal of the children. After some discussion, however, upon the difficulty of finding an eligible abode for them, it being also stated that Mr. Drouet's Asylum was not now overcrowded, it appeared to be the general opinion of the guardians that the children had better remain there, and a deputation was appointed to wait upon the Poor Law Board and the General Board of Health for their further advice upon the matter.

It was stated by Mr. Gaskell, at the meeting, that Mr. Drouet's establishment ought never to have more than 800 or 900 in it; but that the collection of the much larger number recently there had been sanctioned by the Poor Law Commissioners. It was also stated that a complaint of the quality of the food had more than once been made on the part of this parish, and that for some time the removal of the children had only been a deferred question, the difficulty being where to put them.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ryder) said, he believed the cause of this outbreak of disease to be principally, if not entirely, overcrowding and poor living. The charge allowed to Mr. Drouet was stated to be the sum asked for him, not had he ever complained of it as insufficient; and at Mr. Aubin's at Norwood, with double the number of attendants, this charge was the same. It was added, that Mr. Drouet was supposed to make, upon an average, a clear weekly profit of 1s. by each child after paying the whole expenses of his establishment. Some of the older boys were sent out to work, and he got 6s. per week for their labour.

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NEWS

The Queen will hold investitures at Buckingham Palace on February 9, 16 and 23, March 1, 8, 15 and 22.

The Duke and Duchess of York will attend the world premiere of *White Mischief* at the Odeon, Marble Arch, on January 29, in aid of the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Centre.

Tomorrow's royal engagement

The Princess of Wales, President of the Royal Academy of Music, will attend a concert given by the students at St John's, Smith Square, at 7.40.

Charterhouse

Long Quarter at Charterhouse begins tomorrow. G.R.D. Pascoe is head of school. Dr. McNeil is deputy head of school. L.F. Islet is captain of football. Exeat is from February 12 to February 16 and the quarter ends on March 19. Charterhouse Music will give a lunchtime concert at St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall at 1 pm on Thursday, February 25. Arising from a gift of Mr Peter Newton, the first four sixth form scholarships will be awarded in March.

Eton College

Eton College opens tomorrow for the Lent Half and there are 1,269 boys in the school. R.J. Angelini-Hurll, K.S. continues as captain of the school and M.N.H. Hinton, O.S. as captain of the Oppidians. Long leave will be from February 10 to 14. The Visitor, the Bishop of Lincoln, will officiate at confirmation services in the college chapel on March 5 and 6. Business Week starts on March 1 and the school closes on March 19.

Harrow School

Easter Term begins at Harrow School tomorrow. C.O. Bridgeman (Elmfield) is the head of the school. The inaugural Strangford lecture will be given by Professor Andrew Joudie on February 4 in the new geography school. The competition for music scholarships will be held on February 8 and for academic, art and computing scholarships on February 29. Half term exeat will extend from Sunday, February 4 to Wednesday, February 17. Founders day will be held on Saturday, February 27. The Bishop of Willesden will hold a confirmation on Sunday, March 13. William Walton's *Sinfonia Concertante* will be performed on Thursday, March 17, and term ends on Saturday, March 19.

Rugby School

Easter Term at Rugby School begins tomorrow. S.J.M. Cotton continues as head of school. H. Harzeen is captain of hockey and P.S.D. Bradwell is captain of Bigside Bogs. The 50th anniversary of the Cricket Union will be celebrated on March 2. Exeat is between February 1 and 16 and term ends on March 19.

Moreton Hall Shropshire

Spring Term begins tomorrow with 332 girls on roll, of whom 97 are in the sixth form. Haron Russell remains as head rector with Rachel French-Frederick and Sarah Williams as joint second prefects. Sarah Williams is captain of lacrosse. The entrance and scholarship examination will be held on February 2 and the sixth form scholarship examination on February 22. Half-term will be from February 13 to 16. The 20th school production of *Good Toad Hall* will be presented on March 17 and 18 and term ends on March 19. 1988 the school will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary. Events to mark this will be announced in due course.

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Margaret Long
Orthodox view of Christmas

The fishermen's cafe on a Greek island was almost black inside. Dark as a cave. Tourists did not go there for they were dazzled by the glitter of the shops on either side, selling gold bangles, mugs, plaster moulds of Apollo and Aphrodite and green fluorescent milk shakes.

Inside the cafe I watched the dark, intelligent eyes of the fishermen and the absorbing intensity of the conversation and asked a friend what they were talking about. The answer was: "What they are always talking about - Socrates, Plato and God".

There was a biblical Last Supper atmosphere as they came in from the sea; they broke and shared their bread together and drank retsina from the barrel. Their living faith had spilled into every action of their lives. It shined in their faces. It was like an embryo of things unseen, infinitely humble, yet of eschatological dimension. It was my first introduction to Orthodoxy.

Britain is filled with beautiful churches and cathedrals built and dedicated to God. But few people have the courage to talk about Him. It is permissible to mention His name if your briefcase falls in a puddle, in a court of law, at the State Opening of Parliament, or when launching a ship.

But try talking about God at a dinner party and watch the faces glaze in silent disbelief. Unless used in the context of satirical allusion it will be a social gaffe guaranteed to obliterate all credibility.

Yet in Greece I had heard strong

men talk about angels as easily as an Englishman talks about the weather. Prayer is a primordial intuitiveness which is being crushed mercilessly by unbelievably cynicism. There is no mention of God because He has no commercial value. Everything in a material society has to be accessible and God is inaccessible. God, the all powerful, cannot violate human freedom, so once again we mock and crucify Him.

Holiness is sometimes found in unexpected places. Places like the fishermen's cafe or the cave where Christ was born.

Divine Liturgy in the Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Ennismore Gardens, London, is like walking into Constantinople. Nothing has changed since Byzantine times. The music, the words, the dignity, the simplicity, the scholarship and the timeless rhythm of eternity joins heaven to Earth. The candlelight and the calm presence of the icons introduce a reality and hierarchy of such holiness that faces, however plain in the worldly sense, are transformed in prayer. It is a communion of saints where people stand as still as a forest, upheld by the deep joy and grace of Christ's presence.

Every movement and sound in the liturgy has veneration and meaning. Houseman said that great poetry is something which attunes you to ancient rhythms. Jung says almost the same thing in a different way. I think this is what happens in Orthodoxy. The words, and much of the

music was written by those who were close to Christ and the energy and grace is still inherent. Whether it is sung in Slavonic or English or Greek makes no difference, the power in these ancient and most holy sounds is like a tool of eternity.

This is the backcloth of the Christmas service which is broadcast annually at midnight on January 6. In the present century there is a gap of 13 days between the civil calendar and the Julian calendar used by the Greek Orthodox Church.

Family Christmas in the West is a little like the shops on either side of the fishermen's cafe. Noisy and gaudy with emerald green paper hats and risqué wit from the scarlet crackers. The ubiquitous stable scene with the Holy Family and the cow in a cardboard box does not seem to go far enough.

Although the smells and sounds of an English Christmas have a peculiar intensity of their very own, Christmas always accentuates one's worldly condition. If you are happy then everything is wonderful. If you are sad then it makes the sadness more acute. Somehow it does not quite transcend the world.

In Orthodoxy it is very different. Christmas is tragedy as well as joy for at the moment of birth the crucifixion is foreshadowed, so there is a Lenten element of preparation and a sombre understanding of the whole liturgical and cosmic significance of the In-

carnation. The poignancy of a baby born to die.

The Vigil starts in darkness as the Hours are read; the prophecies from the Old Testament. There is an excitement, an awesome expectation, before the royal doors are flung open, and the darkness gives way to light. The singing of the words from Isaiah "God is with us" fills the cathedral with sound as though it was filling the whole created world.

At Christmas God becomes Man. Jesus Christ becomes operative, enclosed in the physical body. There is no fracture between the body and the spirit in Orthodoxy, for one acts upon the other restoring wholeness and perfecting love. Love in the West has been separated from the spiritual and therefore debased. Man fell from grace but Christ's birth has restored that grace. Love heals differences, unites nations and transcends. It is like dew descending upon the earth.

Perhaps we should pause after the crumpled wrapping paper has been cleared away and try to understand the full implication and impact of the Gospels, and the historic perception of Christianity where God so loved the world that he sent His only-begotten Son for our salvation.

Many in the West say we bring gifts because the magi brought them. The Orthodox tradition stresses the greatest gift of all. Christ leads us from time into eternity, and offers us eternal life.

The writer is Margaret Viscountess Long.

Lincoln restores Wren Library

By John Young

When the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral decided three years ago to undertake urgent structural repairs to the Wren Library, they did not envisage that the work would lead to the restoration of the building to its original splendour.

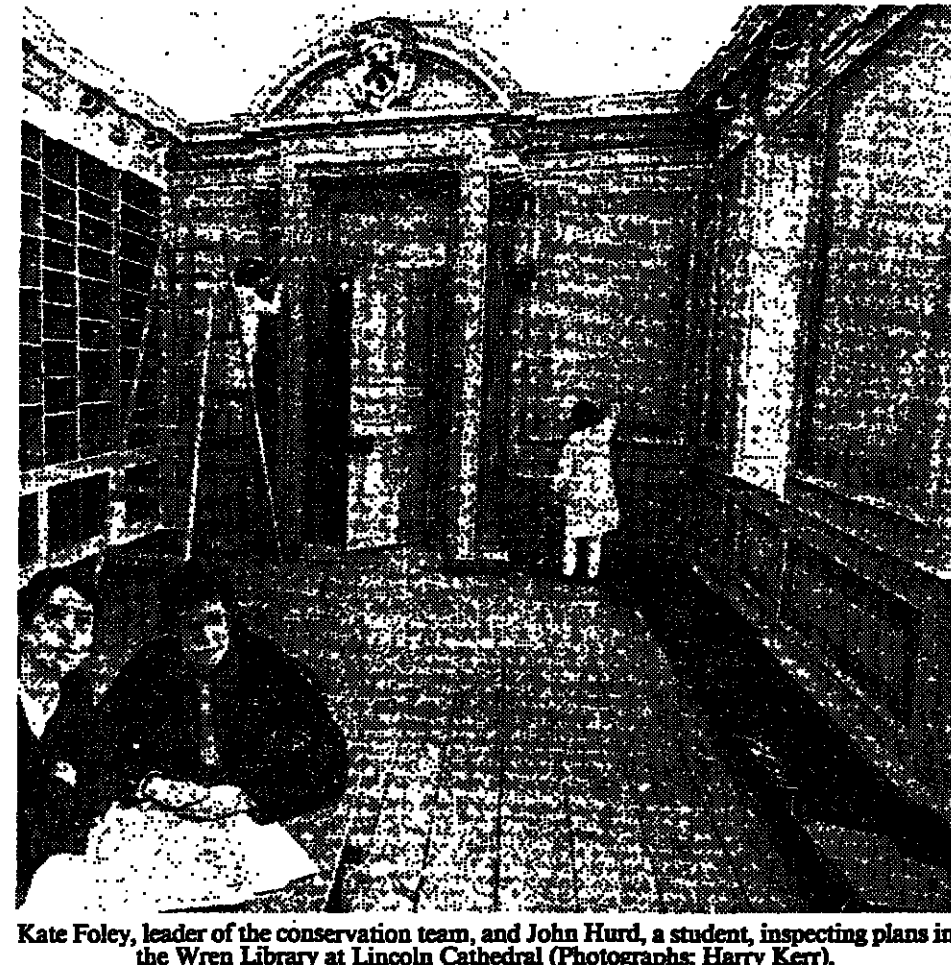
As the books and manuscripts were being removed for safekeeping and re-cataloguing, Sir Christopher Wren's original interior decoration scheme of 1676 was discovered among the documents. Subsequent careful cleaning of some panels revealed his designs, which had been insensitively covered by layers of paint over the following three centuries.

Thrilled by what it called this "astounding revelation", the cathedral's fabric council felt it had to make the most of its unique opportunity. Consequently, several of the larger panels are being cleaned to show the original decoration, and will remain unadorned to demonstrate the remarkable skills of 17th century craftsmen.

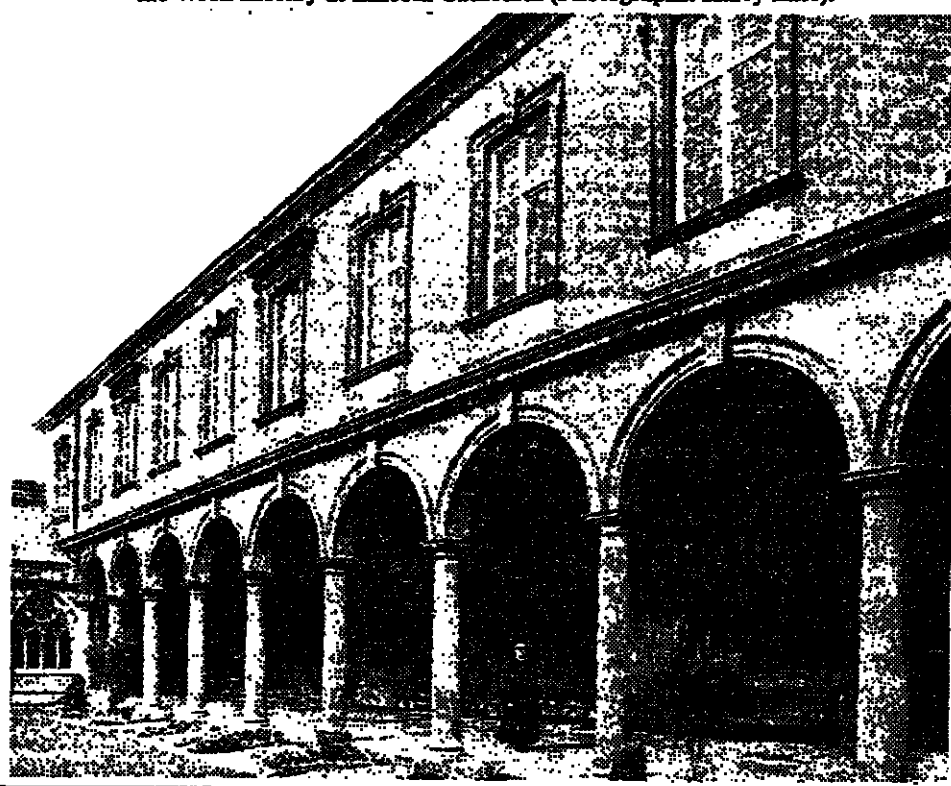
Such was Sir Christopher's meticulous attention to detail that he even stipulated the recipe for the paint to be used. This has allowed contemporary artists to recreate the decorations elsewhere, using the original formula.

Among those taking part in the project are students from Lincolnshire College of Art and Design, under the direction of Mr Nigel Leane and Miss Kate Foley. By using special crayons on partially dry paint they are able to copy Wren's technique of simulating the appearance of Italian marble.

Mr Mark Dicken, the project coordinator, sees it as exemplifying the increasing interest in conservation and restoration which, in turn, is creating a demand for skilled craftsmen and women.



Kate Foley, leader of the conservation team, and John Hurd, a student, inspecting plans in the Wren Library at Lincoln Cathedral (Photographs: Harry Kerr).



Forthcoming marriages

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OBITUARY
MR HERBERT
WADDELL
A great Scottish rugby player

Mr Herbert Waddell, president of the Barbarians Rugby Club and a former Scottish international stand-off half and president of the Scottish Rugby Union, died on January 5. He was 85.

His passing breaks the last link with those who, at the end of the last century, founded the Barbarians, the most famous invitation club in the world. It also reduces to two the survivors of the Scotland XV of 1925 which won their country's first grand slam (four victories in the Five Nations championship).

Waddell was educated at Glasgow Academy and at Fettes College, playing his senior rugby for Glasgow Academicals in the city where he spent most of his working life as a stockbroker.

His club was among the leading sides in Britain during the 1920s, and Waddell himself played 15 times for Scotland between 1924 and 1930, as well as touring South Africa with the British Isles and Ireland side in 1924.

He would have won more caps but for injury. Perhaps his finest moment came when he dropped the ball against England in 1925 which ensured victory by 14-11 and the grand slam on the day when the SRU's new international ground, Murrayfield, was officially opened.

MR DOUGLAS KENNEDY

Mr Douglas Kennedy, OBE, who died on January 7, aged 94, was director of the English Folk Dance and Song Society for 37 years and as such known around the world to the many interested in a very English form of recreation and culture which he had helped to resurrect from oblivion.

He took over the task from the famous Cecil Sharp, who founded the society in 1911. The society's demonstration dance team visited most European countries, and the international interchanges he organized called for a keen artistic sense, imagination and a considerable foundation of anthropological knowledge as well as administrative ability.

Born in Edinburgh in 1893, grandson of David Kennedy the well-known Scottish singer, Douglas Neil Kennedy inherited artistic ability that showed itself also in his sons, Mrs Kennedy Fraser and Mrs Tobias Matthay. His education, however, was scientific, not musical. But he showed early skill in singing the great traditional ballads and the folk-songs popularized by Sharp in the traditional style modified by absorption into a cultivated mind.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth and by a son of his first marriage.

MR HARRY LAURENT, VC

Mr Harry John Laurent, VC, who died in Hastings, New Zealand, at the age of 92, was one of that gallant band of New Zealanders who served with such distinction in the First World War.

He was a sergeant with the 2nd Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade when that unit had to make an attack on a strongly-held German position in France during September 1918.

Gathering together a party of his men, Sergeant Laurent attacked the enemy position with such vehemence that, in spite of being completely outnumbered, he carried the day.

PROF DAVID PARKER

Professor David Parker, Queen Victoria Professor of Law at Liverpool University, died on December 23 in Singapore, where he was a visiting professor at the National University of Singapore. He was 55.

He was co-author of a widely used textbook on the law of trusts, and co-editor of two editions of the authoritative *Tudor on Charities*.

David Berkeley Parker was educated at Doncaster, near School, the London School of Economics and St John's College, Cambridge, where he was a McMahon Law Student, and was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1956.

His first academic post was at Leeds, from where he went to King's College, London, before being given his chair at Liverpool. From 1978-81 he was dean of the Faculty of Law at Liverpool.

His approach to law was fundamentally practical and traditional, but his teaching was enlivened by a dry wit which eased the introduction of many students into the complexities of property law.

He took a well-informed interest in racing, and in Yorkshire cricket; his astuteness but not unkind comments on academic matters were often based on analogies from these sports.

He is survived by his former wife and a son and daughter, who were with him in Singapore when he died.

MR RALPH ETHERTON

Mr Ralph Etherton, who has died at the age of 82, had a long and varied career at the Bar, in politics, and in commerce.

Although a Cambridge man, he was, after he came down from the University, very much part of the mainly Oxford educated band of young men deeply interested in politics whose political and professional careers were interrupted by the war.

In his case the war ended a promising career at the Bar, mainly on the northern circuit.

During the war he served with the Royal Air Force on Special Duties (his wife, Johanne, was de Gaulle's diplomatic driver). Before that he had stood, unsuccessfully, for the old London County Council as a Municipal Reform candidate in two hopeless seats.

But he was elected as

January 9-15, 1988

SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE
ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Wide-eyed and gristle-pied

First-time visitor
to Australia
Michael Watkins
finds himself
caught between
the old notion of
the jolly swagman
and the reality of
the new nation

Drugs, pornography and guns are not necessarily the most pernicious contraband smuggled between countries. Ideology can be very lethal; so too prejudice — and here I am as guilty as rest. At Sydney Airport I died through the green channel, with a bundle of prejudices sewn into the linings of my mental baggage.

I'd read too much: Chatwin on Aborigines, Jacobson on Ockers, Jan Morris... and I was imbued with their conceits of vision. Don't tell me, please, that they are blameless; I know that we all start from a beginning and that beginning is in ourselves.

So, on my third day in Oz I lunched with Debbie and Robert, journalists on the *Sydney Morning Herald*. It was one of those sea-food places on the water, from where we could see the sun-drenched cove of the Opera House. They ordered wine and my first prejudice surfaced like a repressed burp: it'll be kangaroo, I thought. What were my instant impressions, they asked. Nobody's called me a bloody Pom, I said.

They were fidgety, anxious. I could sense the dollar had taken a thrashing, for the first time the Australian Dream had acquired a nightmare dimension. The I'm-for-me attitude is being eroded by a what's-going-to-become-of-me syndrome, with unappealing side-effects, such as the "all poppy syndrome" — you top the heads off the tallest poppies in an illusory attempt to create equality.

This is what they told me, and more. Aussies, they said, still exult in irreverence; Charles and Di conscious, they are yet hyper-reactive to the image of colonial servitude. They spoke too of perspective, distance. "In Europe you overfly countries, languages, customs, exchanging *bon jour* for *guten morgen* for *buon giorno* in a couple of hours. Here you fly 3,000 miles, get off the plane and someone says, 'G'day, sport'. You haven't moved a yard."



I was also trying to avoid the "is-like" booby-traps. I didn't want Sydney to be like anywhere, I wanted it to be Australian, inimitable. I also wanted to enjoy it, and in this I succeeded without the slightest effort. Which, in a way, is rather odd: for Sydney didn't set out to ingratiate. Felons, not Quakers, were its Founding Fathers. Which may account for the quality I most admired: I found Sydney-siders entirely unaffected. To say, as someone in my presence did, that Sydney is like a huge sergeant's mess, is too facile. It really is not like a monkey's for Whitehall or Washington (it doesn't even seem to care hugely for Wollongong), concentrating on itself, in ways less sybaritic than narcissistic.

It is not, surely, so indelibly offensive to adore one's own image, provided that image is adorable, and Sydney's profile, from most angles, is staggering. Even the optical torture inflicted by sections of its skyline is mitigated by the landscape at its base. Sydney was not merely built around its harbour, it was assembled, inspiringly, around leafy walks and arbours.



Paradox of Oz: the inhabitants of Sydney are the world's most urbanized tribe — yet they are in constant touch with the outback

We know about its beaches dedicated to the cult of the body beautiful; but is this truly, once the sweet bird of youth has flown, the guts of the matter? Demographers claim that Sydneysiders are the most urbanized tribe in the world, yet few cities can be so closely encircled by bush fires, so scoured by desert dust, so in touch with the outback. I believe that if you want to stir an expatriate Aussie to pangs of homesickness, you'll hand him a gum leaf to crackle in his palm. Sniffing it, he will inhale a whole territory from Coober Pedy to Humpty Do.

That's part of the several-sided story of who an Aussie is. Another aspect was created by Paul Hogan, who portrayed his country as a farish Pacific island whose inhabitants were quaint without being dangerous. Furthermore, he portrayed them as illiterate, xenophobic, sexist drunks who lived off Vegemite sandwiches and gristle pies.

Dear old Croc Dundee, his teeth have been filed down since then; even he would have to admit as much, opening the entertainment section of the Sydney papers: Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*, Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*, the Australian Ballet, the Symphony Orchestra, art exhibitions by the score, book reviews galore — and book shops open at 10pm.

Were he to dine (as I suspect he has, many times) at Kable's in the Regent Hotel, or The Phantom of the Opera at The Rocks, he'd empty the dregs of his billycan forever. It is all good clean fun, I'm aware, this blatant idolatry of the jolly swagman's virtues; but it is an anachronism.

In another context America had invited: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses..." a refrain which Australia adopted, with the slightly sinister rider — that these masses should, preferably, be Anglo-Saxon.

You need only walk through Sydney's Woolloomooloo or King's Cross districts to confirm how, since 1947 when Australia was 90 per cent

British, times have changed. Here you will encounter a sub-culture of Lebanese, Greeks, Italians, Chinese, Vietnamese, as varied a racial mix as anywhere.

There is another over-roasted chestnut I'd like to crack. I'm in the mood: it is that Australians (all 16,020,000 of them, excluding presumably — since they are excluded from so much else — the 227,644 Aborigines) suffer from an inferiority complex. Which seems to me as misleading as putting it about that Ayers Rock is constructed of Camembert.

Sydney gave me everything I needed: except an aura of history. There was surface history, it's true: in Francis Greenway's Hyde Park barracks and St James's church, in whose uncluttered lines I felt the presence of those stern early days. Yet it was all so close.

But I was heading north, almost as far north as you can go, towards the tip of Queensland, leaving behind in Sydney vague trumors of uncertainty. Deprived of nothing in

this land of plenty, except possibly a definitive sense of purpose, Sydneysiders still said, "good old Bob", of their Prime Minister, Mr Hawke. Yet, in that crystalline air, I had the presentiment that the power of his ju-ju was failing; that no longer was he the undisputed Wizard of Oz.

The mating started when I changed planes in Brisbane. "G'day, mate," said a baggage-handler as I stepped onto the tarmac. But, unless I am blindly wide of the mark there was a self-conscious note in the greeting which made it sound like a parody. This "g'day, dinky-do, fair-dink-un" stuff is part of the folklore, cherished, yet used as sparingly as Cockney rhyming slang. So when I say it started in Brisbane, it ended there too; another myth sinking almost without trace.

From Prosperine airstrip I was driven to Shute Harbour, which is about as fair-dink-un a spot as you could imagine. Putting up for the night, my room faced towards Queensland's Great Barrier Reef.

Finding the way

British Airways (01-887 4000) flies London Heathrow to Sydney in 24 hours, stopping at Muscat and Singapore. Excursion fare from £1,000 return in low season. First class £2,190 return.

Internal flights were with Australian Airlines, bookable here through British Airways. Sydney to Brisbane AS123; Brisbane to Cairns AS186.

I stayed at the superb Sydney Regent Hotel: harbour-Opera House views £106 per double room. Dinner for two at The Phantom of the Opera, £25-£30.

The address of Whitsunday Rent a yacht is Shute Harbour, Queensland 4741. Double room at Kewarra Beach Resort £38 to £62. Lizard Island, Box 2372, Cairns, Queensland 4870 — rates are from £184 to £224 per double, all meals, watersports included.

Reading: *The Songlines* by Bruce Chatwin, (Cape, £10.95); *The Land of Oz* by Howard Jacobson (Hamish Hamilton £12.95).

Further information from Australian Tourist Commission, 20 Savile Row, London W1X 1AE. Tel: 01-434 4371.

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seaplane as far as Townsville, connecting there with an Australian Airlines flight to Cairns, which I liked at once. I liked its wide streets, its rawness, the way rain bounced off its corrugated tin roofs. I liked the train that carried me, bucking over the points, through the mountain rain forest, depositing me at the town of Kuranda, from which I couldn't wait to escape. Despite its isolation, Kuranda had learnt the tricks of the trade, from a butterfly sanctuary to a flea-market. Someone had done a fine job of packaging Kuranda, of putting it on the map.

As I retreated to the station, its platform awash with bougainvillea, an Aboriginal stopped me, tentatively fingering my "Jamaica" T-shirt, his eyes un-focused. "Nice," he said. "I don't belong here, either," he told me, claiming me in some vicarious brotherhood. As he weaved back towards the pub, a flood-tide of tourists parted for him.

That evening I dined with the Prettys, who had built Kewarra Beach Resort, apparently out of virgin forest, some miles north of Cairns. As the frogs warmed to their nocturnal code, they told me they were worried about the Japa-

nese who are buying every acre of Queensland they can lay their yen on. And when, next day, I checked this claim in town, it was substantiated: Japanese interest is prodigious, nothing can reverse the trend for development.

From Kewarra I explored that miraculous coast northward, as far as Port Douglas. Miraculous because, although hauntingly beautiful, endowed with beaches the like of which you see only in coffee-table books, they were deserted. Not a soul. It took me a while to discover why. *Chironex fleckeri*, that's why; box jelly-fish. From October until April shallow waters north of the Tropic of Cancer swarm with box-jellies whose tentacles, more than three metres in length, can be fatal.

Time was running out. I was due in Australia's Red Centre — or Dead Heart, as it is also known — in a few days' time. But I needed a breather, a chance to collect my thoughts; a further chance, if I'm honest, to do damn all. So I flew north alighting on Lizard Island — 2,500 acres, 24 beaches, accommodation for 60 guests, and no telephone.

Lizard Island, so called on account of reptilian creatures the size of dinosaurs which lumber about its surface, was just the ticket. If you didn't like it, you'd be impossible difficult to please and not at all worth knowing.

Usually, I like to keep the best places to myself. In this case I shall not as fulsome as I choose because the advance bookings are such that you wouldn't get in until about 1993. Like other sorts of perfection, the formula is simple: an idyllic setting, excellent food and wine, lavatories that flush, a militant ban on piped music and all forms of organized entertainment. For company there were sooty oystercatchers, Caspian terns and osprey, more birds than people, an admirable arrangement. The sea was still with coral trout, grouper and barramundi; so mostly I floated, I'm a very good floater.

And while I pursued this reckless pastime I thought of Queensland, Japs and jellies; concluding that the *Chironex fleckeri* might yet become the territory's saviour. Queensland's Joan of Arc. For if you are a gentleman of Japan, considering buying up miles and miles of beach, committing billions of yen to tourism, are you really going to put your signature to the bottom line once you hear about the jellies? That's the sting.

Next week: Journey to the red centre

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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL

Beware of the hidden danger



Now that the Christmas and New Year rush is over, the weather seems to be relenting. In the last week there has been quite a bit of snow, especially at the western end of the Alps. This has provided some excellent skiing at high levels and partial cover lower down.

Conditions can still change rapidly with the weather, however. According to temperature and wind speed the snow might be anything from the lightest, fluffiest powder, through wind-blown drifts to a soggy mass. These variations are compounded by the nature of the underlying surface.

More important are the continued changes affecting the snow as it becomes more compact and rigid. Temperature fluctuations, wind and sunshine all accelerate this consolidation, so that the

falls become like the layers of a cake.

On carefully manicured pistes, these single features will be removed. But off piste the separate layers lack unseen, representing anything from ideal conditions to dangerous hazards. Years of local experience may fail to anticipate these dangers. There is no way that new arrivals can judge... they must heed the posted warnings.

At lower levels, where the recent warm weather has removed all or most of the cover, new snow can be taken at face value. The only problem is that without a firm base it will not last long where there is much traffic. So, the basic rule remains: select the big resorts with plenty of variety in altitude. For instance, Val d'Isère/Tignes, the Trois Vallées, Verbier, Zermatt or St Anton.

Bill Burroughs

WHAT'S ON AT THE RESORTS

A succession of almost snowless Christmases have convinced a number of Alpine areas of the value of snow guns... unfortunately this Christmas it was too warm to produce even artificial snow. As more areas use the machines it is worth checking if the resort of your choice has them. That way, your skis at least are less likely to need regular open-heart surgery.

AUSTRIA

KIRCHBERG: Men's FIS Giant Slalom, January 14.
SÖLL: Lufthansa Ski Championships, 16-23.
IGLS: Men's Europa Cup Super-G Giant Slalom, 16-17.
LECH: Women's World Cup Giant Slalom, 10.

FRANCE

LES ARCS: First Rhône-Alpes Ski Clubs Junior Championships (Trophée des Futurs Champions), 13-20.
AVORIAZ: International Film Festival (Films du Fantastique), 16-26.

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CHAMONIX: Europe Cup Nordic jumping, 16.
FLAINE: French Moguls Cup, 17. "Snow Jazz" concerts, 12-22.
LA PLAGNE: International Bob Trophy, 15-17. Ami Skiathlon, 17.
LES MENUIRES: Paris Teenagers' Championships Slalom and Super G, 16-17.
COURCHEVEL 1850: Torchlight descent, 14. French Doctors Ski Championships, 16-17.
Concert: "La nuit du diamant", 17.

SWITZERLAND

ST MORITZ: Thirtieth On-Snow Show Jumping competition, 10-17. The Balthus Challenge Cup (traditional toboggans) on the Cresta run 13. Swiss University Cross-country Championships, 14-17. First St Moritz Grand Prix, 16-17.
VILLARS: Swiss University Championships, 17-22.

ITALY

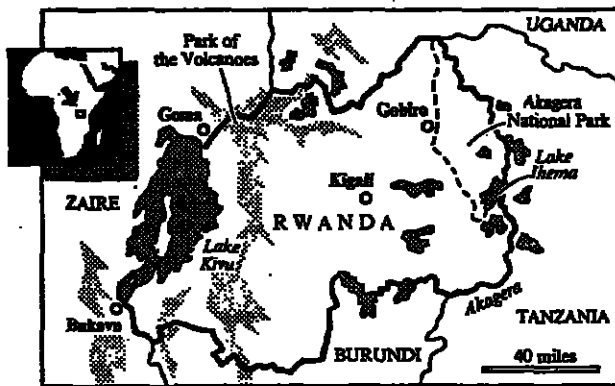
COURMAYEUR: The Volvo Ski Show, 9-10.
Peter Hankey

Walking in the land of giants



The big country: a dawn view of the Zaire mountains from Rwanda and (inset) the giant Maheshi, a "very nice gorilla", photographed in the eastern lowlands

There are only 250 mountain gorillas left in the world. Rob Neillands hacked his way through the jungle of Rwanda in Central Africa for a closer look, and learned how the visitors can scare off the poachers



TRAVEL NOTES

A safari to Rwanda and Zaire is available from Abercrombie & Kent Travel, Sloane Square House, Holborn Place, London WC1W 8HS, (01) 730 9600. The price for 10 days full-board, including transport and guides, is £2,051. Seven days in Rwanda only costs from £1,498. Take safari clothing and lots of colour film. A zoom or long-focus lens (200-300mm) is almost essential.

Cash in on the dollar

TRAVEL NEWS

There are no complaints about the snow from the other side of the Atlantic - and, in view of the weakened dollar, skiing looks good value. A week in the Canadian Rockies can cost as little as £225 as an add-on package to one of Sportsworld Travel's Winter Olympics tours. Sportsworld, the official ticket and tour operator for the games - which run from February 13 to 28 - has a few flight, accommodation and transfer packages left to Mount Norquay, Sunshine Village and Lake Louise. 01-370 4515.

Pastures new

Members of the Field Studies Council are spoiled for choice. Courses in more than 100 topics, from cleaning old water colours and prints to the origins and ecology of woodlands, by way of heraldry and canal boats, are offered. Around £60 is average for a full-board weekend and courses are open to non-members. Field Studies Council, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, SY4 1HW. (0743 850674).

● Fancy taking the family to a Tuscan castle this summer? Cuendet features everything from farmhouses to mansions. Brochure, £2.95, inclusive of postage, from Chapter Travel, 102 St John's Wood Terrace, London NW8 6PL. 01-586 9451.

All change

Monday is changeover day for bookings on many gîtes and cottages let through Les Propriétaires de l'Ouest, (0705-755715). The company has property in the Ariège high in the Pyrenees, Brittany, the Dordogne and the Ardèche.

TRAVEL BOOKS

Despite its subtitle, *A Handbook for Emigrants*, Laura Veltman's *How to Live and Work in Australia* (Northcote House, £5.95) is of interest to young travellers, too. Australia accepts that working holidays widen horizons, and while setting limits on who may work where, encourages them.

● The annual crop of new guides from Vacation Work landed on my desk with an even heavier thump than usual. *Summer Jobs Abroad 1988*, and *Summer Jobs in Britain 1988*, cost £5.95 each. Both list 30,000 holiday jobs ranging from farmhand attendants to archaeological diggers. Other updated titles include *Vacation Traineeships for Students*, £5.95; *The Summer Employment Directory of the United States*, £6.95; and *Internships USA*, £9.95. From bookshops or by post (add 75p per title) from Vacation Work Publications, 9 Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1JH.

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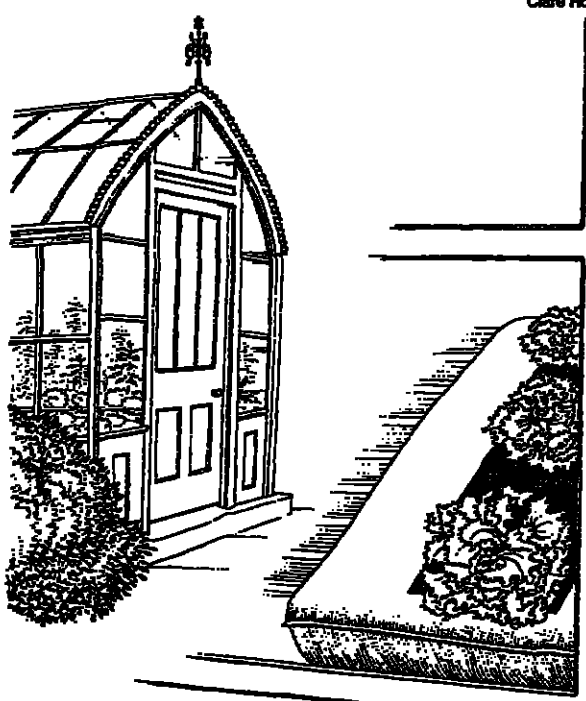
GARDENING

Taking a cool look at winter planting

Even with the chill foreboding that the worst of the winter is yet to come, the turn of the year makes me itch to grow things. The problem is that once you have seedlings germinated and tenderly growing — you have to do something with them. Until now, I have fought shy of heating my greenhouse, but the reassuring charts produced by *Gardening from Which?* tell me that it should cost only £20 a year to keep an 8ft x 6ft greenhouse at about 2° above freezing point in my cold bit of Hertfordshire. The charts recommend using a thermostat-regulating electric heater on Economy 7. The price drops to approximately £10 in the mild South-west and increases to £22 in the south of Scotland. Larger greenhouses can be screened off with bubble plastic, leaving a small area to be heated.

Growing possibilities increase even further in a heat of 7° above freezing but so, too, does the cost, so I shall deal with warm weather plants at a later date when I write about conservatory living and growing. I don't see the point of rushing too many seedlings into growth, since they will have to wait to be planted outdoors until the weather outside is reasonably clement — which for the last few springs it hasn't been. You can extend the growing season by covering the soil with polythene or with a movable frame.

An immediate benefit of having a bright, frost-free area at your disposal is that you can overwinter in tubs and pots plants such as bay, china roses



As the temperature starts to plunge, Francesca Greenoak advises on how to make an early start to the season

and ferns, and fuchsias and geraniums from which you can take cuttings later. In spells of very harsh weather all outdoor tubs should be insulated or brought into shelter. Scented geraniums prefer a temperature about 7°C (45°F). They will see the winter through, though they need to be kept in almost dormant conditions with their compost nearly dry.

Seed potatoes now arriving by mail order should not be left in their dark boxes but placed eyes facing up, in flat boxes or tomato trays in a light place so that the shoots will grow stubby and strong. They will be safe like this, even if the weather continues cold past the ideal planting times (around mid-March for earlies, and mid-April for the main crop).

Some seeds can be sown this month to crop in March, April and May, either in a greenhouse border or in growing bags on a bench. Start them off in a small propagator helps germination, but seedlings need to acclimatize gradually to cool greenhouse temperatures. Among varieties to try are lettuce: Cynthia, or Klock; radishes: Saxer and Robino; spring onions: White Lisbon; carrot: Early French Flame or Rondo.

Vegetables for transplanting outside such as broad beans, cabbage, cauliflower and peas can be started off a fortnight or so earlier than usual in a greenhouse with a little heat, (February/March depending on when your regional climate allows planting out under frames or cloches). The same rules apply to flowering plants such as asters, sweet peas and antirrhinums. If grown seedlings can't be planted out, they should be acclimatized to lower temperatures, potted on and after six weeks in a pot given a light liquid feed until spring arrives.

The low-temperature plantlets of the winter months are more slow growing than the later ones, and need watchful care. To start with, they require a good seed or multi-purpose compost, moistened before the seeds are sown and misted sparingly if it begins to dry. Make sure the compost is not chilled from outside storage when you use it, use lukewarm water when misting. Don't take on too much: overcrowded seedlings quickly become unhealthy so prick them out as soon as possible.

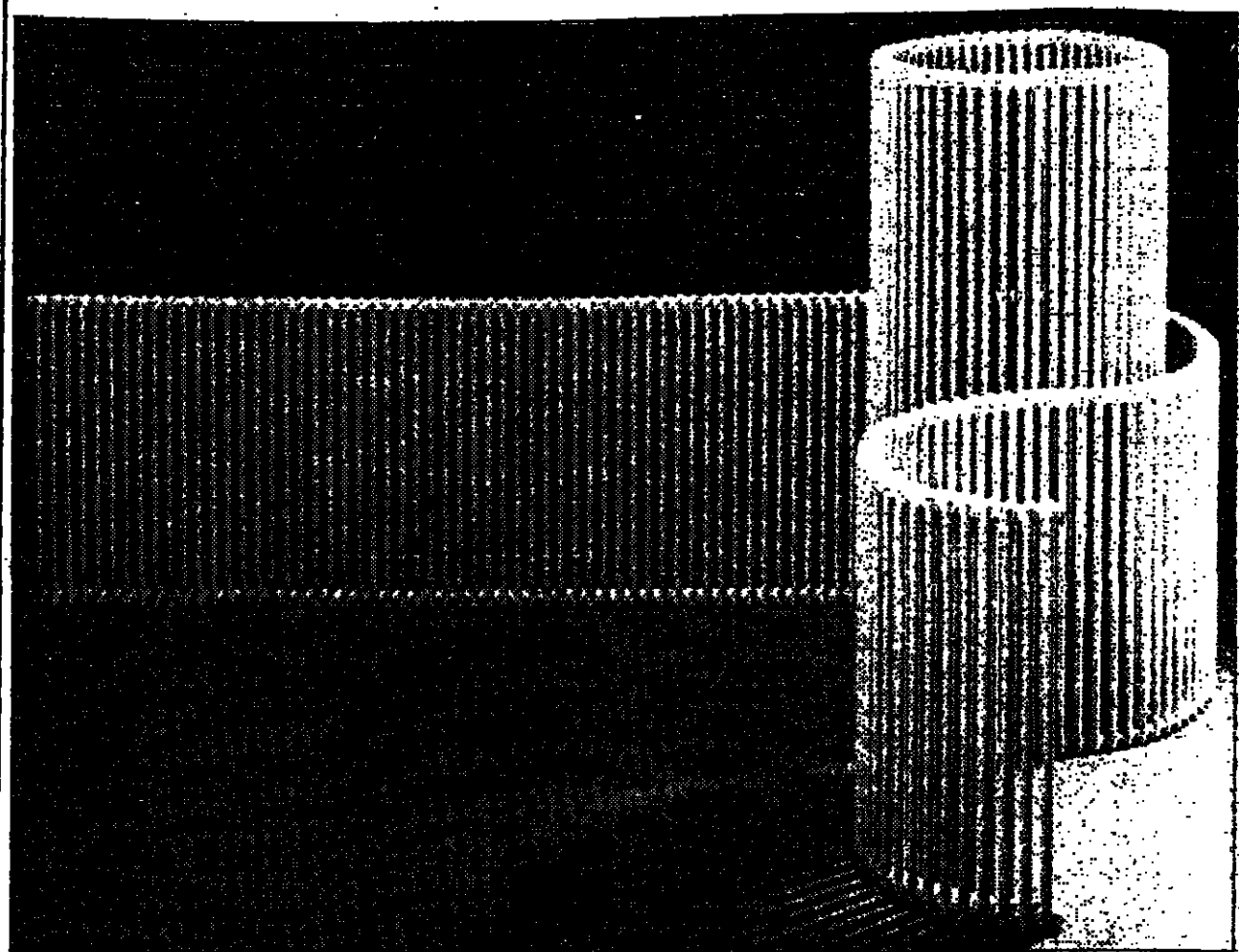
GARDEN NEWS

Working outside in winter is especially hard on the hands and until now I have never found any gloves that would take the strain. Edmont, which makes a range of industrial gloves, has just come into the gardening market with a really first-rate range. Edmont Hy-nit are neat-fitting, strong and flexible, enabling you to do

ticklish jobs without awkwardness. My other recommendation is Sol-vex long-sleeved household gloves. From Man-Equip, The Whitehouse Meadow, Godalming, Surrey GU7 3HM. State glove size and that you are a reader of *The Times* for a special price of £1.50 for Hy-nit and £1.50 for Sol-vex (inc p+p).

- WEEKEND TIPS**
- Pick winter irises (*Iris unguicularis*) as they begin to bloom and it will prolong flowering.
 - Repair fences now while plants are dormant.
 - Frame kiwi fruit and wisteria.
 - Water greenhouse primulas early in the day to allow water to drain through.
 - Sow Sweetheart strawberries now at 18°C (65°F) and grow on at 5°C (40°F) to fruit this year.
 - Take cuttings from house-plant tradescantias and start them off in a 3-inch pot of compost mixed with a little sand.

SHOPPING



Hot stuff: unusual designs imported from Zehnder of Switzerland (above), and (below) made-to-measure models from Bisque

Dreaming pipes

Central heating radiators do not have to be white and featureless... nowadays they come in an intriguing range of size, shape, colour and finish. At Bisque, the London specialist radiator shop, tucked away obscurely in Belzard Road, NW6, there are curved ones which wind sinuously, angled ones which wriggle around awkward corners, and sculptured heated rails for bathrooms. Colours range the spectrum through pink, yellow, turquoise, golden, green, burgundy, navy, or silver.

According to owner Geoffrey Ward: "People in Britain are only just becoming aware that stylish, flexible radiators are available. We're about 10 years behind the rest of Europe."

Bisque radiators cost between two and three times more than standard "utility" models. For instance, high-output heated towel rails in a choice of 150 colours start at £120 plus VAT. Even so, Ward's experience is that many people are prepared to

Once radiators all seemed to look the same — but now they have become high fashion

pay more for something they like. Made-to-measure radiators are also on offer to any specification. Among the more unusual requests have been ones for use instead of bars on a basement window and horizontal high-level models.

Bisque offers a computerized service, visiting homes to calculate heat loss and advise on the size of radiators. The service is free for anyone purchasing radiators. It costs £36, plus VAT, for those who don't buy direct from Bisque. Bisque: 244 Belzard Road, London NW6 4BT (01-226 2225) and 15 Kingsmead Square, Bath BA1 2AE (0225 65244).

Nicole Swengley

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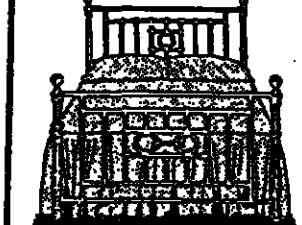
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Hot stuff, plain wrappers



Dishes cooked *en papillote* or *al cartoccio* are to be found on fancy French and Italian restaurant menus, but in fact paper-bag cookery is not at all difficult. It is perhaps not something that you will want to do every day (I certainly do not) but for special occasions and dinner parties, the suspense of serving enclosed parcels of food for your guests to open themselves is really quite fun.

It is a method of cookery that requires the minimum of utensils and equipment, simply an oven, a flat baking sheet and grease-proof paper or baking parchment. Sometimes foil is used, but I do not like the sound and feel of metal cutlery on foil, and would not recommend it.

The food cooks in its own juices and vapours with a little seasoning in the way of herbs, vegetables or spices. The flavour is sealed in. It is essentially another way of steaming and, therefore, a very healthy way of preparing food. Like most simple cooking techniques, it requires the best quality fresh ingredients that will taste of themselves. Richer elaborate sauces have no place here, and the flavour of the food should be enhanced rather than masked. Perhaps a sprig of dill with fish, chervil or coriander with chicken, a cinnamon stick or a clove with some apricots.

Not all food lends itself to being cooked in a paper parcel. Anything sharp or pointed or awkwardly shaped will not do. Choose chicken breasts rather than whole chicken, noisettes of lamb rather than a joint of lamb, and fish fillets rather than the whole fish.

Remember, too, that this is not like a casserole. You can't remove the lid and add a little more wine or

For a special occasion, why not surprise your guests by presenting them with a meal cooked in a heart-shaped paper parcel?

Frances Bissell describes how the flavour of a dish can be sealed in by using the remarkably simple technique of *en papillote*

A few more herbs. All the ingredients and seasoning must be wrapped up in the parcel at the beginning, so that the scent and the flavour is only released as you cut into the parcel.

Figures 1-6 (below) show you how to do it. The paper hearts should always be oiled or buttered first to stop the food sticking to them.

Although I have given recipes below for starters, main course and pudding, you would not want to serve three or four paper-bag dishes at one meal. The following recipe makes a very good first course for a dinner party, the Parma ham and sage adding plenty of flavour to what is often a rather bland fish.

Other fish fillets can be cooked in the same way, mackerel being particularly good.

Rainbow Trout and Parma Ham in Paper Parcels with Hot Potato Salad Serves 4

4 paper hearts, oiled with olive oil
1½lb/225g small waxy potatoes or new potatoes

4 rainbow trout fillets, skinned, about 6oz/175g each

2oz/50g Parma ham (buy "ends" if you can, as these are much cheaper)

8 sage leaves

2 tablespoons olive oil

freshly ground black pepper

Scrub and peel and par-boil the potatoes. When cool enough to handle, dice very small and divide amongst the paper hearts, placing them on one half of the paper only. (Fig 4.) Trim the fillets to a neat shape, making sure all bones are removed. Chop the ham and sage leaves, and roll each fillet around a spoonful of the mixture. Place the fish on top of the potatoes, sprinkle with olive oil, and grind on some black pepper. Fold over and seal the parcels, place them on a baking tray, and bake for eight to 10 minutes in a pre-heated oven, gas mark 6, 200°C/400°F.

This is a very easy, inexpensive, no-mess dish.

Chicken Breasts with Mozzarella and Avocado in Paper Parcels

Serves 4

4 buttered grease-proof hearts, 4 skinned and boned chicken breasts

1 ripe avocado pear

4 slices mozzarella cheese or other mild, melting cheese

salt, pepper

fresh herbs as available

2 tablespoons dry vermouth or good dry white wine

Slice the chicken breasts almost in half horizontally to make a pocket. Peel and slice the avocado,

and lay three or four slices inside each chicken breast. Place a slice of cheese on top of the avocado, and close the chicken breast with halved cocktail sticks. Season each lightly, and place on half of the paper heart. Place a sprig of fresh herbs on top (thyme or marjoram is particularly good with this combination), and sprinkle on a few drops of vermouth or white wine. This will combine with the cooking juices to form a light sauce. Fold over the paper parcels, seal, place on a baking tray, and bake in a pre-heated oven, gas mark 5 to 6/190-200°C/400°F for 15 to 20 minutes, depending on the thickness of the chicken breast.

A variation on this might be the addition of a few blanched shreds of vegetables — leeks, carrots and celery, for example.

In the following recipe, use dried apricots and soak them for two to three hours first. Prunes can be cooked in the same way or, indeed, any dried fruit.

Baked Apricots with Vanilla

Serves 4

4 paper hearts brushed with melted butter

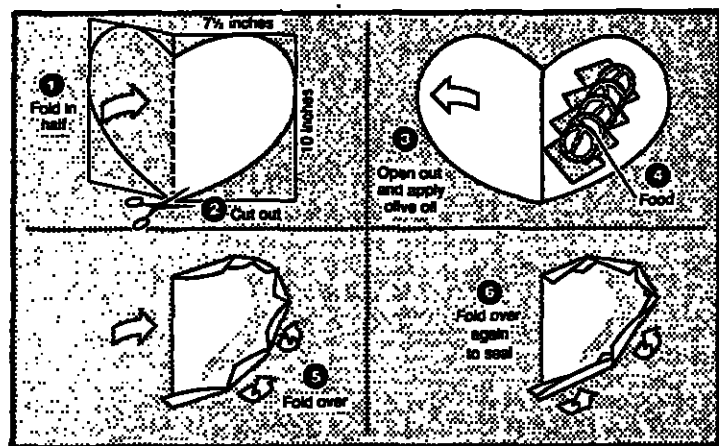
12 apricots

1 vanilla pod

1 orange

½ oz/15g butter

Place three apricots on half of each paper heart. Cut the vanilla pod in four, and tuck each piece amongst the apricots. Grate the orange zest on top, and then squeeze the juice over the apricots. Dot with butter. Fold and seal the parcels and lay them on a baking tray. Bake in a pre-heated oven, gas mark 6/200°C/400°F, for 10 minutes.



Corkers from California

Warren Winarski, owner of Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, is a winemaker to watch. Our first meeting was in California's Napa Valley, three years ago.

Several superb Stag's Leap vintages later, our next rendezvous was in London, where his purpose was twofold: to talk at a wine and spirits congress and to show the Stag's Leap range at the annual London tasting of California wines.

Anyone meeting the reasoned and intellectual Winarski for the first time would not doubt imagine him to be a university professor, which was exactly the position he held at the University of Chicago in 1964, where he taught political science.

A sojourn spent in Italy became his first tentative experience of wine, but the illuminating moment came with an East Coast American hybrid wine. By now a home winemaker, "it was the love of vinifera", or the noble wine vine, that eventually drew Winarski to California.

After a stint as assistant winemaker at the original Sonoma winery, plus various part-time short courses at the California wine school at Davis, he landed a job at the Robert Mondavi winery. By 1970, Winarski knew the style of Cabernet Sauvignon that he wanted to make: "Richness without weight was my formula. I wanted that lean character".

Inspired by a Fay Vineyard Cabernet, from an important southern Napa Valley 70-acre vineyard overlooked by a rocky promontory known as Stag's Leap, Winarski realised that was the soil for him: "I do like the cedary quality of the fruit there". He bought the next door 50-acre plot of vines, finally acquiring the Fay Vineyard last year.

Stag's Leap's second Cabernet vintage, the 1973, came top of the red wines, including several first growth claret, at that famous 1976 Paris wine competition. Winarski attributes his success to the "major influence of moderation, moving away from the single-minded devotion to regional characteristics." In his congress speech he puts this



rather more eloquently and academically: "Transcending the merely regional to reach what might be called the classic dimension".

Briefly, this means that instead of winemakers simply preserving and enhancing regional character they must strive to make great, classic wine every year. Clearly the Winarski approach to wine is a cerebral one. Yet for all that, seeing him at work in his cellar, it is obvious that he is also an intensely practical man, master of all he surveys, with detailed knowledge of every finished and fermenting wine in his cellar.

It is a winning combination as anyone who has tasted his stunning rich, ripe '84 Stag's Leap Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Winarski Wines, The Barracks, Cecil Hill, Cirencester, Glos., £11.02) will testify. Similarly, the '85 Stag's Leap Napa Valley Chardonnay (Corney & Barrow, 12 Helmet Row, London EC1, £13.80) made from vineyard overlooked by a rocky promontory known as Stag's Leap, Winarski realises that was the soil for him: "I do like the cedary quality of the fruit there". He bought the next door 50-acre plot of vines, finally acquiring the Fay Vineyard last year.

The Hawk Crest wines, made by Winarski from bought-in fruit, are an expensive way to experience this winery's style. Try the '84 Cabernet Sauvignon (Winarski Wines, £4.70) whose rich blackcurrant pastille-type taste is modestly priced. Winarski is clearly as good a winemaker as he is philosopher.

Jane MacQuitty

EATING OUT

This is The Place, and about time too

It may be rash to so aver, but I guess that Kensington Place is some sort of triumph for its designers, Simon Slater and Nick Smallwood, whose other establishment, Launceston Place, I rather deplored when I wrote about it last February. This new joint is a mere half mile north of its over-English sibling but is culturally and gastronomically of another cosmos. Messrs S and S have had the wit to hire Julian Wickham as architect and Rowley Leigh as chef, which goes to show that wit is but good sense in overdrive. What they have thus created is something that suggests London is coming of age as a city to eat in. This is a grand claim and I should explain it: London has a number of first division chefs working in soigné and expensive restaurants, often hotel restaurants; it further has a quota of large and more or less informal places where the point is to be seen rather than to eat and where you won't pay an arm and a leg. But the two genres have never hitherto been wedded. Kensington Place is large — it seats about 100, it looks smashing and, most important, the cooking is brilliant: it's of a standard

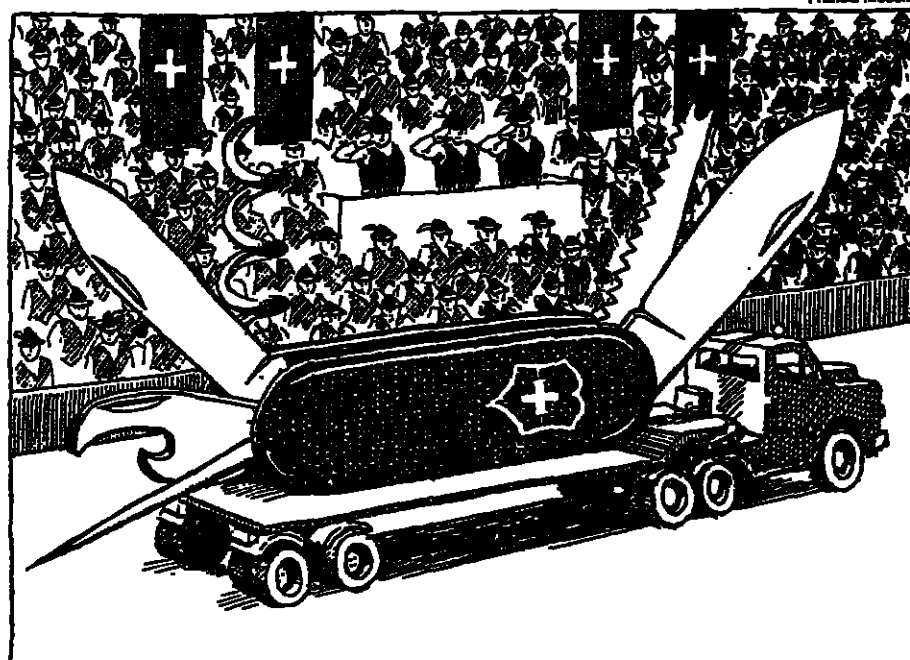
Restaurants in London have finally come of age and a new standard has been set, enthuses Jonathan Meades

never even aspired to by such operations as Schmidt's, Bertorelli's, Langan's Brasserie and so on. Like those places it will become an institution. Wickham's design is a fine essay in Cocktail-Bar Constructivism. From without it sits oddly on the ground floor of a banal '60s block, an emphatic reminder to the designer of that block that Modernism had once been worthwhile. Inside, the whole of one end of the place is hung with a mural in a style quite out of keeping with the grey and white austerity of the rest; despite its inclusion of such fashionable items as Switzerland's most advanced armament, the Swiss Army Penknife, and a copy of the

design magazine *Blueprint*.

The two things about the design which are imperfect are the chairs and the volume of din. The chairs have backs that resemble lavatory seats, which would be all right if they were comfortable; but I suspect that Wickham's grasp of ergonomics is a bit like Nigel Lawson's grasp of humility. On the other hand, maybe the noise is intentional. It certainly recalls the great Parisian brasseries, and so does the animation of the place, and so, too, does the clientele. Kensington Place is unique in London in attracting people of all metropolitan life who are not fixed into the idea of, on the one hand, overcooked grouse or on the other fish fingers with everything. Having said which, it is surely the only restaurant you can go to where there is no salt on the table, yet where they'll bring you tomato ketchup for your chips — this may of course be because Rowley Leigh is sure of everything he serves save his chips. He's right on this score, they're not the works; but his mash is — it's simply better than any other potato purée in London.

Leigh has moved here from Le Poulbot, the establishment for which he won *The Times*



Restaurant of the Year Award in '86, as well as two trophies in *Cault Millar* and *Time* magazines. The most reliable pan-British guide, the AA, such a move is akin to a one-off craftsman going into mass production, it's the move from high art into gauged populism.

His cooking has not suffered, although it has little to do with the formulaic stuff of French brasseries and even less, mercifully, to do with the grunge of *soi-disant* English brasseries. Leigh puts a bit of spin on the most commonplace dish — even something as

as foie gras terrine is done with turpiss.

Since I have not tasted this, I can't comment on it but I have been to Kensington Place three times and eaten with five different mouths including that of a Belgian who reckoned the cooking to be the best he's ever had in

Britain. The dishes I've eaten which are first rate are: salt cod soup with a sauce that causes tongue-burn; delicious bland salt cod brandade with truffle shavings; a sauté of veal kidney and startlingly hung steak; bollito misto that's better than that of any Italian joint in town; and hunks of venison roast with a pepper and fruit sauce.

I've further made inroads into plates of calf liver with polenta and braised radicchio (again the polenta better than in any Italian place, maybe because it's cooked in stock); venison and port sausages with lamb's lettuce billed in a jejune pun as "sausages and mache"; a plate of chocolate sweets (sorbet, ice cream, cake charlotte) of a high order.

The thing I was less keen on was a pepper and anchovy salad — the peppers stripped of their skins, the anchovies hadn't been brined, the capers were OK — but the lot was served with a load of redundant leaves in a bowl that was impervious to knife and fork, and, moreover, horrible to look at. The cheeses were fine save for a Mendip goat that was under-ripe to the point of chalkiness.

The sweets are splendid. Leigh borrows from the best sources or, to adapt an old maxim, he does what all great chefs do and steals. Here he has borrowed from Pierre Wymans of Comme Chez Soi in Brussels what he's stolen is baked tamarillo. Your guess is as good as mine — it may or may not belong to the custard apple family, it's got pips, it's sour enough to need sugar in the cooking. More conventionally there are quince sorbet and lemon tart. For a cook who is keen on fruit with meat, Leigh is strangely prone to unsweet sweets — which is not a put-down, more a lead in to the St Croix du Mont they do by the glass.

Like the majority of the wines here it is judiciously chosen and fairly priced. The list, like everything else about the place, is cleverly wayward. Two will pay between about £40 and £55 depending on what they drink and whether they succumb to the property made Martini cocktails. Even at the higher end of this price range The Place is a bargain.

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OUT AND ABOUT

Follow the dancing ploughboy

OUTINGS

WHITLESSEY STRAW BEAR FESTIVAL: Ancient custom, revived in 1980. The festival was traditionally held when plough boys, seasonally out of work, banded together dressing one of their number as a straw bear with blackened face (to prevent recognition) and went round the town with a plough begging for alms. Today, the grand procession accompanied by the bear, plough, Morris, sword, dog and molly dancers from Cambridgeshire, Leicestershire and Yorkshire will go through the town assembling at the market square at 10.45am and then via the nine public houses to return to the square at 2.30pm. An evening of music and dance follows. Whitlessey, Peterborough, near Cambridge. Today. Festival free, dance adult £2 child £1.

NORTHERN CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION 55TH CHAMPIONSHIPS: Teams from Lancashire, Yorkshire, Humberside, Northumberland and Durham, Cheshire and Cumbria compete in four events — boys, youths, juniors and seniors. Among some of the famous clubs represented are Jarrow and Gateshead. First race — boys — at 1pm. Last race — seniors, over a 7½ mile course — 2.30pm. Dove Court Farm, Chester-le-Street, Durham. Today. Free.

BEATRIX POTTER AT THE TATE GALLERY: To coincide with the current exhibition, slides and stories in the auditorium at 3pm, read today by David Bellamy, next Saturday by Jane Asher. Film version of the Tales of Beatrix Potter danced by members of the Royal Ballet company tomorrow 4pm. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (01-821-1313). Entrance

free. Tickets for reading £1 from the Education Department (01-323-1456). Film free. Exhibition open Monday to Saturday 10am to 5.50pm, Sunday 2pm to 5.50pm. Adult £2, child £1.

PUPPETS AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM: Last of the special holiday events. Puppeteer Lacey Morgan presents five shows this weekend. Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7. (01-589-6323). Bird Show today at 11.30am, 2.30pm, tomorrow at 2pm. Jungle Show today 1pm, tomorrow 3.30pm. Admission to museum adult £2, child £1, under five free.

WORCESTER MUSEUM SATURDAY ACTIVITIES: Weekend activities, starting today with an opportunity to examine selected examples of Egyptian antiquities from the museum collection. Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery, Worcester. (095-

25371). Today 10.30am, to 12.30pm free. **OUTINGS IN LINCOLN:** Antique fair today at Lincolnshire Show ground, Grange-de-Lings from 10am to 5pm. Adult 50p, accompanied child free. Open days at Ellis Windmill, Mill Road, Lincoln, today, tomorrow 2pm until dusk. Adult 25p child 10p.

Judy Froshaug

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BRIDGE

Iron hands within velvet gloves

Acol, or any other two club system for that matter, is ill-equipped to express really strong hands. This is partly attributable to the level at which the exchanges must be conducted; partly that Acol, unlike some Italian systems, has no asking bid machinery that allows the opener to discover precise information about responder's holding in one or two key suits.

This hand from the final of the Bermuda Bowl is a good illustration.

Great Britain v USA. East-West Game. Dealer North.

W	N	E	S
108654	AK7	AK843	AK8
108654	AK7	AK843	AK8
108654	AK7	AK843	AK8

(1) Usually equivalent to a pass.
(2) As if playing And the bidding has been passed - two clubs.
(3) Negative response.
(4) Obviously inviting a slam, but, as Sheehan readily admitted, not the best way to elicit my intelligent cooperation.
(5) I was well aware that my subsidiary values in the black suits might be all that was needed. But my hearts seemed to suggest that Sheehan required trump filters.

Sheehan would have done better to follow this sequence:

W N E S

14 20 30 40

3NT 40 40

At this point because we have many bids to introduce powerful three suiters, I would have recognised that Sheehan was only interested in secondary values in the black suits and put a proper value on my SQ and doubleton club.

It was certainly a pathetic miss in our room.

Hugh Ross's wife is usually too nervous to watch her husband play. But when South's powerhouse appeared on V-graph she was reluctantly persuaded to see how he would handle it.

Forrester Lawrence Armstrong Ross.

W N E S

No No 10 20

Armstrong's one diamond showed 0-7 balanced or 0-10 unbalanced points.

Ross intended his two clubs as a strong artificial demand bid. Lawrence assumed that it was a natural overcall. Understandably the defence was less than perfect, so Great Britain gained "only" 8 IMPs.

I don't suppose this will encourage Mrs Ross to become a more regular spectator.

Jeremy Flint

CHESS

Taking a Short cut to the lead

The Foreign and Colonial tournament, currently in full swing at Hastings, is a remarkably strong event. The illustrious participants include the reigning British champion, Nigel Short; the Common wealth champion, Murray Chandler; the US champion, Joel Benjamin and former USSR champion, Lev Pschis. As I write Nigel Short has seized the lead from the Scandinavian Ace, Bent Larsen. Here is a dashing win by Larsen from the third round.

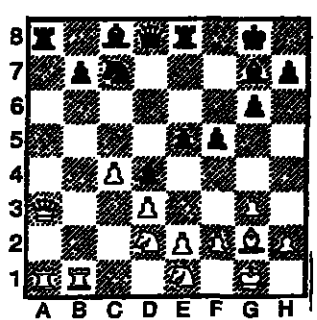
White: Bent Larsen; Black: Murray Chandler. Reti Opening, Foreign and Colonial tournament, Hastings, December 1987.

1 N3 d5 2 c4 d4 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 d3 d6 6 0-0 0-0 7 B4

This advance sets the tone for the whole game. White gains space and creates a Queen's side initiative.

Opening more lines for his Queen's side offensive.

White enjoys the type of pressure normally associated with Black's counterplay in the Benko Gambit: 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5 etc... but in this case he has not sacrificed a pawn. Black's 17th move challenges Larsen to offer a strategic Queen sacrifice. Larsen promptly takes up the gauntlet.



A neat tactical blow which Black may have overlooked and which guarantees White a prolonged initiative. If now 22... Bxb7 23 Rxb7 Qe6 (23... Qxb7 24 Rxe8+) 24 Raa7 with terrible pressure.

In the concluding phase of the game Black tends to hasten his own demise by seeking overactive counterplay.

White's pieces now swarm in for the kill. If now 37... Qe6 38 Bd5 wins outright.

Play at Hastings continues at the Queen's Hotel until January 14. Spectators are most welcome.

Raymond Keene

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1458

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, January 14. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, January 16.

ACROSS

- Tip over (6)
- Society of Friends member (6)
- Post (4)
- Alchemist's (8)
- London doctors' centre (6,6)
- Kidnap (6)
- Carpeteer's grippers (6)
- "The Carataker" playwright (6,6)
- Coal waste hill (4,4)
- Summer slowly (4)
- Infuse (6)
- Run bouncily (6)

DOWN

- Subdue (4)
- Flirt with women (9)
- Avoid (5)
- Gives up (5)
- Part player (5)
- Call to mind (3)
- Based nearby (5)
- Claw (5)
- Basic (9)
- Job (4)
- Window frame (4)
- Tired out (3,2)
- Should (5)
- Live (5)
- Motivate (5)
- Exchange (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1457

ACROSS: 1 Revamp 4 Torrid 7 Nape 8 Southey 9 Widower 11 Baton 12 Louisa M Alcott 15 Maize 16 Plywood 20 Crocody 21 Skin 22 Orange 23 Litmus

DOWN: 1 Renewal 2 Vapid 3 Passé 4 Trot 5 Rintotto 6 Doyen 10 Waste 11 Bulky 13 Unicorn 14 Tidings 15 Macho 17 Loyal 18 Oakum 19 Fec

Name _____

Address _____

The Times New Year Prize Jumbo

A reminder that prizes of £50 will be given to the first five correct solutions opened on Monday, January 18. Entries should be sent to The Times New Year Jumbo Crossword, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Winners and solution will be published on January 23.

REVIEW

The high priest of the banal

PAPERBACK

Collected Poems 1947-1980, by Allen Ginsberg (Penguin, £9.95)

In the good old days, when a slip into passivism meant instant oblivion, modernists had to work hard for a living. Not for them was the safety net of academic scholarship and sympathetic media, ready to cushion the fall from the heights of solipsism with respectful silence or canned applause. By contrast, today's son of Icarus is not an acrobat juggling paradoxes, but an intellectual renier, who knows that a tuppence of originality shrewdly invested over a lifetime yields a tidy Collected Poems in the end. In short, the striking thing about the present generation of modernists is spiritual laziness.

"We will glorify war..." a brave Italian paradoxist proclaimed in 1909. "the world's only hygiene - militarism, patriotism... beautiful ideas worth dying for, and contempt for women." But for a change of polarity, Marinetti's words read like a poem by Allen Ginsberg written three-quarters of a century later. Yet as the history of the century has shown, politics is less a matter of correct polarity than of accurate perception: political regimes ostensibly in opposition to one another have been known to collaborate as cheerfully as they put to death, often without bothering to make the distinction, those who glorified or vilified them. As for poetry, it is entirely indifferent to such matters: in no field of endeavour is content more absolute.

Mr Ginsberg, now a distinguished figure on America's university circuit and a member of the Institute of Arts and Letters, has practised his lazy

modernism since 1956, when *Howl* and *Other Poems* triumphed over obscenity laws to make him something of a celebrity. Then as now, the "beautiful ideas" Mr Ginsberg professed mankind in his verse were clumsy inversions and adaptations of century-old political slogans, ethical half-truths, and intellectual banalities.

Since *Howl*, he has condemned not only war, militarism, and patriotism, but IBM ("Who Runs America?"), the FBI ("Anti-Vietnam War Peace Mobilization"), plastic, television, Kennedy, the Social Register, injustice, and heterosexuality for good measure. These "beautiful ideas" are the commonplace of our time, indeed of all time, equally suitable for airing in the dining room of a New Jersey stockbroker and the reception room of a Vietnamese psychiatrist.

"America looks through tortoiseshell specs, unblinking, scowling", Mayakovsky wrote in 1929. That American culture, in 1956, was still insufficiently cosmopolitan to absorb the shock of one poet's lazy and tedious nonconformism is altogether irrelevant. The fact remains that Mr Ginsberg has contributed nothing to the art of English prosody as it has evolved since Walt Whitman.

"When I read collections of verse nowadays," Alexander Blok wrote to Anna Akhmatova in 1916, "I often think that these people write well, but I do not need it, it's boring, and I myself should stop writing. The next stage is disliking verse. Next one thinks it an idle pastime. Finally one begins to say such things publicly." Inexcusably, the oeuvre of Mr Ginsberg's entire creative life is incapable of causing a similar commotion in anyone's soul. The temptation to say so publicly is insuperable.

Andrei Navrozov



Classy, and bound to last

Blindfold Games, by Alan Ross (Collins Harvill, £5.95); Doctor Zhivago, by Boris Pasternak, translated by Max Hayward and Marjorie Hare (Collins Harvill, £4.95); Queen of Sheba, by Joy Adamson (Collins Harvill, £4.95); Soft City, by Jonathan Raban (Collins Harvill, £4.95); The Golem, by Alexander Solzhenitsyn, translated by Thomas P. Whitney and Harry Willets (Collins Harvill, £5.95); The Leopard, by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, translated by Archibald Colquhoun (Collins Harvill, £4.95).

Question: what have two famous literary novels that will still be read a century from now, the sappy story of an African leopard, a thunderous report of the Stalinist anti-world darkness at the heart of the Soviet Union, and two very different, elusive English early autobiographies, which are as much about life as the life in question, in common? Answer: they are the first books from the new trade paperback imprint of Collins Harvill, the bit of Collins that publishes proper and distinctive books. A "trade" paperback is peculiar new jargon. It means posh and rather more expensive than your run-of-

the-mill disposable paperback nicely produced, tightly bound, sometimes with pictures, and too good to fling as mass market pulp, to be read and screwed up, and chucked away.

Most hardback houses are introducing their own trade paperbacks, rather than fling the rights to a specialist paperback publisher. You will probably have read most of these books, in newspaper serialization, if not in hardback. You can now own them to keep, fiction in royal blue stiff covers, non-fiction in black with blue stripe.

Phillip Howard

NEW PAPERBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION

Celestial Navigation, by Anne Tyler (Pavanne, £2.95) Mother dies; wet, middle-aged bachelor son inherits seedy American boarding-house: sad and funny.

Mercier and Camier, by Samuel Beckett (Picador, £2.95) They have an arrangement to meet, but keep missing; funny, significant, Joycean precursor of Godot.

The Shrapnel Academy, by Fay Weldon (Coronet, £2.50) Ghastly weekend seminar at the academy dedicated to the memory of the inventor of the exploding cannon ball.

NON-FICTION

Frances Horowitz, Poet, A Symposium, edited by Brocard Sewell (The Aylesford Press, £7.90) Memoirs, poems, and photographs of the golden girl who died young.

The Cat's Whiskers, by Beryl Reid (Headline, £2.50) Cat books misaw; but these stories and tidbits manage not to be catatonic.

The File on the Tear, by Anthony Summers & Tom Mangold (Collins, £4.95) Conspiracy and vast cover-up theory of the last 'sar and Anastasia: fundamentally silly and untrue.

Baroque triumph out of Paris

CLASSICAL RECORDS

Atya Christie (Harmonia Mundi, HMC 901257/58) Mask of Time Davis (EMI, 7 47705-6) Barok String Quartets Berg Quartet (EMI, 7 47720-5) Beethoven Hainink/Concertgebouw (Philips 420 540 2P4) Great Service Tallis Scholars (Gimel, CD GIM011) Music in Renaissance Transylvania Hungaraton (Conifer HCD 12524)

That prodigious American in Paris, William Christie, supplied the best baroque opera recording of last year, perhaps of many years, when his ensemble Les Arts Florissants tackled Lully's *Atys*. The performers, led by the supple-toned Guy de Mey, imbue their performance with a fine sense of ensemble as well as a sensuous life.

One could be bamboozled by the tangle of allusion, symbol and metaphor (both musical and literary) in

Tippen's Mask of Time. Nevertheless, the admirable recording conducted by Andrew Davis must be counted one of 1987's most important projects.

Another superlative issue of 20th-century music was the Alban Berg Quartet's recordings of the six Bartok String Quartets. Hearing these finely difficult works delivered with such finesse is a rare pleasure.

In a year which had seen Beethoven frisked coisily along by Roger Norrington and weighted into sultry gloom by Solti, the first fruit of Hainink's new Beethoven cycle with the masterly Concertgebouw Orchestra (fifth and seventh) seemed a model of musicality.

The early English choral tradition was thrillingly celebrated by the Tallis Scholars' spirited performance of Byrd's Great Service, and seekers after unknown musical regions should be aware that Hungaraton's Music in Renaissance Transylvania is as splendid as it is obscure.

Richard Morrison

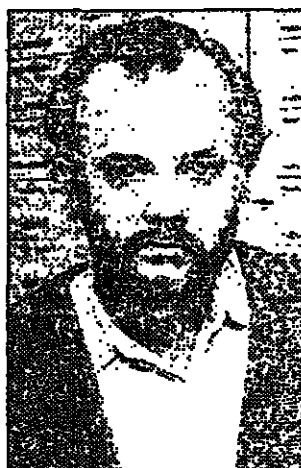
The Peelers are coming

ROCK

Mixed Peel - The John Peel Sessions (NME 033) The Tape With No Name (NME 034) The World At One (NME 035)

Despite a dwindling readership, the *New Musical Express* has been slow to surrender the unique authority it won in the Seventies as an arbiter of progressive taste. Some of that authority is in evidence on three companion tapes, each of which lucidly depicts a distinct fragment of contemporary music's expanding, though increasingly fractured empire.

Mixed Peel - The John Peel Sessions is a satisfying collection of some of the best BBC recordings made for John Peel's Radio 1 show. Raw, vibrant, under-produced versions of songs by Gang Of Four ("At Home He's A Tourist"), the Undertones ("Here Comes Summer") the Ruts ("Sus"), the Adverts ("Gary Gilmore's Eyes") and many others provide a impression of the days when rock



John Peel: down memory lane

was still held to be capable of functioning as a radical force in its own right.

More recently, it has taken well-targeted marketing campaigns to sway the passions of youth in favour of country music and since the record companies launched their first New Country offensive in 1985, the NME has obligingly been on hand to sort out the wheat from the chaff. The Tape With No Name is a 24-

song round-up of the best in modern country from the likes of Steve Earle ("Guitar Town"), Dwight Yoakam ("Please, Please Baby"), John Hiatt ("Memphis In The Meantime"), Ratlesnake Annie ("Funky Country Livin'") and Emmylou Harris ("Sweetheart Of The Pines").

But by far the handiest collection is *The World At One* which manages to make some sense of the gathering interest in world music which turned into a deluge of record releases, not entirely coincidentally after the success of Paul Simon's *Graceland*. "Guaranteed Paul Simon free!" trumpets the press release, rather ungracefully, as it catalogues such exotic wonders as the Malian vocalist Salif Keita's "Sina", the Israeli hip-hop wailer Oha Haza's "Golbi" and the Andalusian troupe of flamenco guitarists, Ketama's "No Se Si Vivo O Sueno".

The NME Tapes are only available by mail order from: NME Cassette Offer, Ablex Audio Video, Harcourt, Halesfield 14, Telford TF7 4QR.

David Sinclair

Main line surfing

Captive - but fleeting - audiences will enjoy one of the biggest sculptures in the country (150ft long, 14ft high). British Rail passengers on the main Leeds-London line get the best view of environmental artist Charles Quick's *A Light Wave* - blue wooden slats depicting rolling breakers - which has been erected alongside Platform 2 at Wakefield station and is already intriguing travellers who believed themselves some miles from the sea. The actor and transport buff Michael Palin switches and red to sell in the light, time-centred to coincide with trains' arrivals and departures, next week.

On the house

Sixteen different wines, labels carefully concealed, were swirled around the palates of Royal Opera House catering and administrative staff in diligent search of a new house wine and red to sell in the Crush Bar. They selected a very nice claret and an Alsace - and only then, they swear, did they discover that both bore the Sainsbury's label. As supermarket chief Sir John Sainsbury also happens to be chairman of the ROH, the wine will be supplied on a non-profit making basis.

Lynda Murdin

Pick the olés out of this

JAZZ RECORDS

Billy Jenkins Scratches of Spain (Thin Slick 13) Research Social Systems (Dossier ST 7533) Eduardo Niebla & Antonio Forcione Celebration (Venture VE7)

Set up as an art-school parody - or more likely, in the current jargon, "deconstruction" - of the Miles Davis/Gil Evans classic *Sketches of Spain*, Billy Jenkins' new big-band album typifies the tendency of British popular music towards an extreme reliance on ironic humour. From the days of the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band, an enormous amount of energy has been expended on music that pretends acting as a commentary on other music to the job of making a statement of its own.

Lackluster, in this case the parody does not go much further than the pastiche of the Davis/Evans cover design.

Jenkins, the iconoclastic young British

composer and guitarist, expands his Voice of God Collective to 18 pieces for *Scratches of Spain*, a lively collection of picture-postcard flamenco jazz, most of it about as authentically Spanish as Andrew Sachs' *Manned*. Several Loose Tablatures, including Django Bates, Steve Argüelles and John Rascott, turn up in featured roles, rather like spotting RSC actors in a vintage Carry On film.

Amid all the slapstick, however, there is one passage of outstanding natural beauty: a composition for cello, vibraphone and bass drone which uses its four or five minutes to create an indelible mood of quiet sorrow. Why won't Jenkins make a whole album of this sort of thing?

Why, like so many ironists, does he seem to be afraid of beauty?

Django Bates and the trumpeter Jim Dvorak are the familiar names among the five members of Research, whose *Social Systems* shows them to be interested in integrating the techniques of hip-hop music with contemporary jazz. When it works, as in a piece called "River Art", built on the combination of John

McCullough's fat, funky bass guitar and Geoff Serle's processed drumming, the music finds a niche somewhere between the early-Eighties Manchester jazz-rock of A Certain Ratio and the contemporary New York fusion music of Steve Coleman's Five Elements.

Edoardo Niebla and Antonio Forcione, the Spanish-Italian guitar duo now resident in London, deliver in *Celebration* an album to please those who enjoy the finger-picking collaborations of John McLaughlin, Al DiMeola and Paco de Lucia. Zestful, melodic, technically outstanding without needing to thrust the fact in your face, the duo reaches pinnacles on the lustuous "Folk Song" and the zippy flamenco-inspired "Fuente Fresca".

It falls from them when, on a couple of other tracks, synthesizer technology is employed with no good reason; and it would have seemed a common courtesy, too, to have told us which guitarist is coming out of which speaker.

Richard Williams

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Veteran campaign

News from Los Angeles that a very odd couple plan to star together in London's West End later this year - actor Jack Lemmon and Harold Pinter, better known as a playwright and director.

The play that is tempting Pinter is *Pats*. It's author is Donald Freed, who also wrote *Circe* and *Bravo*, in which Pinter directed Faye Dunaway in 1986. This time Lemmon will play World War I veteran with Pinter cast as an American survivor from Vietnam. The idea of a US opening has been dropped because, according to Lemmon: "Harold was a bit nervous about his American accent and thought the critics might go after him for that."

Echoes of Rattle

Can the BSO do a CBSO? Hopes are high that the appointment of 28-year-old American Andrew Litton as principal conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra from September will be as rejuvenating for it as Simon Pater has been for the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. London audiences will be able to judge in March, when Litton and the BSO make their first appearance in the capital together at the Royal Festival Hall.

Dips into unusual diplomatic pockets have allowed next week's visit to the Sadler's Wells Theatre by leading Czechoslovakian choreographer Pavel Smok, three dancers from his Prague Chamber Ballet and the Kocian Quartet. Smok and company were invited to make their British debut by an impressed Sadler's Wells



Frankova and Smok

Royal Ballet during its Eastern Europe tour last year - then the hard-up British Council was found to have allocated all appropriate funds. But the Foreign Office after approaches by the British Ambassador in Prague, provided £5,000 so that the Czechs, including ballerina Katerina Frankova, can perform Smok's *Kreutzer Sonata*, set to music by Janacek. Another rarity - the two ballet companies will share the same stage: the piece will be performed as part of Thursday and Friday's mixed bill in SWRB's current season at the Wells.

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THE WEEK AHEAD



CONCERTS

ENDLESS BIRTWISTLE: Harrison Birtwistle has another concert series devoted to his music starting in London tomorrow, suggesting that he is Britain's most popular, or at least most performed, serious composer. Called "Endless Parade" it is also the title of his trumpet concerto, being premiered on Wednesday by Hakan Hardenberger with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. More Birtwistle can be heard tomorrow, Monday and Tuesday. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795, cc 638 8891).



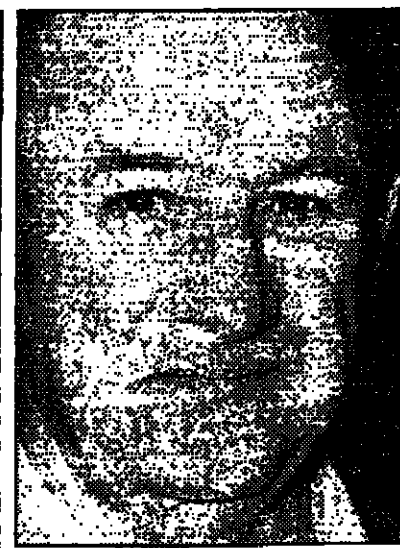
GALLERIES

PAINTING FACES: Louie Burrell (1873-1971) was a noted Edwardian miniature artist and in 1918 painted this oil portrait (above) of his daughter Philippa, who has set about restoring her mother's artistic reputation. Trained by social realist and society portrait painter Hubert von Herkomer, Louie completed commissions for the Royal Family, major politicians and sundry celebrities, before ill-health curtailed his career. An exhibition opens today on Level 4, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (01-638 4141).



ROCK

A LA MODE: David Gahan is the smooth-voiced singer of Depeche Mode, a Basildon quartet which swept to prominence in the vanguard of the synth-pop movement of 1981. The group has attracted larger audiences during a period of sustained artistic development and musical sophistication for which the group is not often credited. Tonight, Newport Leisure Centre (0633 59676); Monday and Tuesday, Wembley Arena (01-992 2676); Friday, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133).



CINEMA

COMING IN: Gene Hackman slips into Caspar Weinberger's old shoes as the U.S. Defence Secretary in *No Way Out* (15), a polished revision of the film noir classic *The Big Clock*, with extra twists and a new setting (instead of a magazine headquarters, action takes place in the Pentagon). Hackman assumes Charles Laughton's role as the big shot with a murder to cover up; Kevin Costner tackles Ray Milland's part as the luckless investigator. Roger Donaldson directs. Odeon Leicester Square (01-630 6111), from Friday.



DANCE

IN PURSUIT: Ashley Page's *Pursuit* was premiered by the Royal Ballet during Paul Hamlyn Week last July, with seats reserved for newcomers to Covent Garden. At subsequent performances in the Big Top at Battersea, John Smith's settings could not be used. So this week's performances (see listings) are the first chance for the general public to see it complete. The choreography continues Page's exploration of kaleidoscopic patterns and the music expands on Colin Matthews's highly-praised "Suns Dance".



THEATRE

EARLY VALENTINE: Pauline Collins, whose last West End role was in Alan Ayckbourn's *Woman in Mind*, returns in the title role of a new play by Willy Russell, directed by Simon Callow. *Shirley Valentine* is about a middle-aged Liverpool housewife who gradually discovers that life can offer her something new and fulfilling outside her domestic routine. The play was first seen at the Everyman Theatre, Liverpool in 1986. Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, London WC2 (01-638 9987). Previews from Friday. Opens January 21.

THEATRE

LONDON

10TH LONDON INTERNATIONAL MINE FESTIVAL: Details from 01-637 5661. Six venues, live shows and films. Opens Mon. Until Feb 7.

ANDROMACHE: Janet Suzman in title role of the classical French tragedy, directed by Jonathan Miller, with Peter Cury, Penelope Wilton, John Barron, Kevin McNally, Ben Onwuks. Old Vic (01-928 7616). Previews from Friday. Opens Jan 19.

FIVE SMOOTH STONES: Commissioned work by Steve Shill, visual and abstract theatre exponent. Peter Searles and Edward Jewessbury as a father and son. Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, London W12 (01-743 3398). Previews Tues and Wed. Opens Thurs.

KISS ME KATE: James Smillie, Nicholas McAuliffe, André Bernard, Tim Flavin now lead in the RSC production of the Cope Porter musical as it transfers to the West End. Savoy (01-638 8888). From Fri.

SOUTH PACIFIC: Gemma Craven, Gerlie Reading, Emile Belcourt, Andrew C. Wadsworth in a new full-scale revival of the classic musical. Prince of Wales (01-839 5989). Previews from today. Opens Jan 20.

THE WIDOWING OF MRS HOLROYD: First professional London production since 1968 of one of the best of D.H. Lawrence's plays. Askalon Theatre Company directed by Tom Scott. New End Theatre, 27 New End, London NW3 (01-794 0022). Preview Mon. Opens Tues.

OUT OF TOWNS
EDINBURGH: Charley's Aunt: Ian Brown directs a new production of the classic farce, with Rupert Farley in the lead. Royal Lyceum (021 229 9687). Preview Thurs. Opens Fri.
MANCHESTER: My Fair Lady: Major revival of the musical with Liz Robertson, Denis Quilley, Norman Rossington, Robert Fleming. Transfers in April to Birmingham and then perhaps London. Opera House (061 831 7766). Previews from Thurs. Opens Jan 19.

CONCERTS

MORE MESSIAH: Yet another performance of Handel's *Messiah* in the wake of Christmas, but in this one the London Orpheus Choir, Orchestra and soloists under James Gaddam use the absolutely complete edition by Basil Lam. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, cc 928 8800). Today, 7.30pm.

BACH/SCHIFF: Andrés Schiff continues his series of Bach on the piano, playing the 15 Three-part Inventions and English Suites Nos 2, 4 and 6. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141). Today, 7.30pm.

WIGGLESWORTH/RAMO: Mark Wigglesworth conducts the Royal Academy of Music Orchestra in Bach's *Rachmaninov's* Symphony No 2 and Brahms's Violin Concerto. Maurice Haddon being the soloist. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

DAMN/ACADEMY: Peter Damn (French horn) solos with the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields in a concerto by Mozart and a concerto by Michael Haydn. Also, Kenneth Sillito conducts Josel Haydn's Symphony No 44 and Britten's *Bridge Variations*. Queen Elizabeth Hall (see above). Tomorrow, 7.45pm.

FROM PARK LANE: The Park Lane Group begins its annual week of double concerts. "Young Artists and Twentieth Century Music." At 6pm the Cambrian Brass Quintet plays such things as Peter Maxwell Davies's *Pole Star* March and Derek Bourgeois's *Proverbs*, while at 7.30pm Ian Hardwick (oboe) and others perform Johnson's *Asterogenesis*, Takemitsu's *Distance*, Xenakis's *Omnia*, Birtwistle's *Pulse Sampler*.

FILMS

BEAUX ARTS: The celebrated Beaux Arts Trio offer Haydn's Piano Trio Hob XV/34, Schubert's Trio D 929 and Shostakovich's Trio Op 67. Wigmore Hall, Tues, 7.30pm.

CLEOBURY/LCO: More popular classics from the London Concert Orchestra under Nicholas Cleobury including Havel's *Bohème*, Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance* March No 4, Rossini's *Gazza Ladrà* Overture, Grieg's *Peer Gynt* Suite No 1. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795, cc 638 8891). Thurs, 7.45pm.

FILMS

THE GLASS MENAGERIE (PG): Tennessee Williams' hit-house play about a tortured family. With Joanne Woodward as the overbearing mother, Karen Allen as her crippled daughter and John Malkovich as the smothered son. Paul Newman directs. Cannon Haymarket (01 839 1527), from Fri.

FATAL ATTRACTION (18): A spurned lover (Glenn Close) takes revenge on Michael Douglas, his wife (Anne Archer) and family. Adrian Lyne directs this unsettling thriller. Plaza (01-437 1234), from Fri.

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's new production of Rossini's *L'italiana in Algeri* continues to stand alone at Covent Garden, conducted by Gabriele Ferro and with a strong cast led by Agnes Baltsa in the title role. Covent Garden, London, WC2 (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: A lively selection this week: David Pountney's enchanting and perceptive new production of *Hansel and Gretel*, tonight, Wed and Sat Jan 16 at 7.30pm; time runs out for Jonathan Miller's maffioso *Rigoletto* in its last performances on Mon, Thurs and Feb 21; *Der Rosenkavalier* is back strongly cast on Tues and Fri at 7pm. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London, WC2 (01-638 3161).

OPERA NORTH: Offer their new, calculatedly squally *Carmen* tonight, and then turn, next Sat Jan 16, to a revival of *The Merry Widow* with Kathryn Harries in the title role and Clive Timms conducting. All performances start at 7.15pm. Grand Theatre, New Briggate, Leeds (0532 459351).

AUTHENTIC HAYDN: The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment presents the first London performance of Haydn's witty opera *L'infedeltà delusa*. Sigiswald Kuijken conducts a concert performance with a band of original instruments and a cast led by Nancy Argenta and Christoph Pregardien. South Bank, London, SE1 (01-928 3191). Wed.

JAZZ

ADELAIDE HALL: She remains active a full 60 years after contributing vocals to Ellington's "Creole Love Call". Burgh House, New End Square, London NW3 (Info: 01-431 0144), tomorrow, noon, £3.

MARTIN TAYLOR: The guitarist goes on the road with his trio. Later in the year he will be back with his old boss, Stéphane Grappelli. Four Bars Inn, Cardiff (0222 574962). Mon, Pizza Express, London W1 (01-439 8722).

Thurs-Sat: The Liberal Club, Swansea (0639 884820). Tues; The Concorde Club, Eastleigh, Hants (0703 613989). Wed.

MICHAEL NYMAN: Impossible to categorise, the composer's nine-piece band takes its inspiration from the tradition of 18th century street music. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191). Tues; Theatre Royal, Winchester (0982 643434). Thurs; South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell, Berks (0344 484123). Fri.

FILMS ON TV

THE SERVANT (1963): Dirk Bogarde in one of his finest roles, as the manservant who destroys his weak master, directed by Joseph Losey from a script by Harold Pinter. BBC2, Tues, 9-10.50pm.



● Karen Black (above) stars with Cher and Sandy Dennis in *Come Back to the 5 and Dime*, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean, which is having its British television premiere. They play members of a James Dean fan club, meeting on the 20th anniversary of their idol's death and looking back on their own lives. Based on a one-act Broadway play, the film was directed in 1982 by Robert Altman. Channel 4, Wednesday, 10pm-midnight.

HE DIED WITH HIS EYES OPEN (1955): Melancholic French thriller with fine playing from Michel Serrault, as a detective on a murder hunt, and Charlotte Rampling. Channel 4, Fri, 11.30pm-1.30am.

ROCK

MARILLION: The Market Square Heroes pod on tonight, Victoria Hall, Hanley (0782 625331); tomorrow, Manchester Apollo (061 273 3775).

FILMS ON TV

3775: Tues, Sheffield City Hall (0742 735295); Wed, Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham (0602 411871); Fri, Cornwall Coliseum, St Austell (072 681 4004).

ECHO & THE BUNNYMEN: End of the rescheduled dates. Tonight, Free Trade Hall, Manchester (061 834 0943); Mon, Liverpool Empire (051 709 1555); Tues, St Georges Hall, Bradford (0274 752000); Wed, Newcastle City Hall (091 261 2606).

MAGMA: Very rare English appearances by French jazz-rock big band; fondly remembered from the Seventies. Thurs for three nights, Bloomsbury Theatre, London WC1 (01-587 9629).

GALLERIES

YOUNG TURNER: Showing the landscape painter's early works in 1800, concentrating on his drawing. Tate Gallery, London SW1 (01-821 1313). From Mon.

COMIC ICONOCLASM: Illustrating how this century's fine artists have exploited comic book imagery. Cornerhouse, Manchester (061 228 7821). From Tues.

WATERCOLOURS OF THE NORTH: Submissions to the ColorArt Competition. Bankside Gallery, London SE1 (01-928 7521). From Wed.

INTRODUCING WITH PLEASURE: Works selected from the Arts Council's collection by 12 celebrities. Plus: recent paintings by Terry Frost. MacLaurin Art Gallery, Alloway, Ayrshire (0292 43708). From today.

GEORGES ROUSSE: Large Cibachrome photographs of *trompe l'oeil* paintings and installations, with in derelict buildings by this French artist. Cambridge Darkroom, Cambridge (0223 350725). From today.

Tough guy to categorize



Eschewing vainglory: Norman Mailer on the set of *Tough Guys Don't Dance*, the film he has directed from his own novel

Forty years after the publication of his first book, *The Naked and the Dead*, Norman Mailer is contemplating a new career as a commercial film director. *Tough Guys Don't Dance* features star talent - Ryan O'Neal, Isabella Rossellini (hot from *Blue Velvet*) - plus the financial support of Francis Coppola and the ubiquitous Cannon Films. Mailer told one interviewer: "To begin directing at my age" - he is now 64 - "it's vainglory to have any suspicion that you'll end up as a great director. Kurosawa wasn't made in a day, nor Bergman, nor Fellini. But I have a literary sense that I can apply to film."

In fact Mailer began directing 20 years ago, though he then pooh-poohed narrative skills, sustained characterizations or cinematic films. The films of the Sixties were infuriating, no-budget affairs, kept in motion by improvised scripts, non-professional actors and an ego running wild. *Beyond the Law* - the most politely received - featured Mailer as a police lieutenant haranguing suspected criminals. In *Maidstone*, Mailer played a

pornographic film-maker turned presidential candidate, though the "plot" pales in the memory beside the moment when Rip Torn attacked Mailer's head with a toy hammer. Mailer then bit Torn's ear. The third film of the trio, *Wild 90*, escaped British exposure. Mailer regards these endeavours as unruly children from a bygone age. "I went much too far. I ended up making them for a very select group of people who didn't care how sloppy a film looks. But there's something about faults in a film that affects most people like scraping chalk on a blackboard, and the sum effect of my earlier films may have been a symphony of screeching chalk."

There's no obvious screeching in *Tough Guys*: from the opening stumblings of the wastrel hero - a writer living in Provincetown (Mailer's own summer hideaway) - the tale of homicidal intrigue, decapitated heads and rampaging carnal desires proceeds at a tidy pace. Yet Mailer still trips up the audience with constant changes in tone: buffoonish black comedy, genre parody, romantic melodrama - we never know where scenes are heading.

Geoff Brown

WALKS

THE LONDON OF DICKENS AND SHAKESPEARE: meet today, Monument tube, 11am, £2.50.

LONDON BENEATH THE STREETS: meet today, Blackfriars tube, 11am, £3.

GUIDED VISIT TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM: meet tomorrow, Museum entrance, 2.30pm, £3.

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

BARBICAN CINEMA: Season to accompany festival of British Music. Includes *Things to Come* (music by Arthur Bliss), *Henry V* (Watson), *Anna Karenina* (Lambert), *The Way Ahead* (Alwyn), *49th Parallel* (Vaughan-Williams), *Night Mail* (Arnold), *Oliver Twist* (Bax), and *The Overlanders* (Ingham). Feb 2-12. Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 8891).

RSPB WILDLIFE FILMS: Premiere of *Island of Sand*, *Mud Mothers*, and *A Little Owl's Story*, Feb 13. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1. (01-928 3191 cc 928 8800).

LAST CHANCE

DIEGO RIVERA: Artist associated with Mexican mural renaissance, with murals, portraits, still lifes and landscapes and cubist paintings. Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1. (01-921 0848). Ends tomorrow.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

CREMBALUM (b) Medieval Latin for one of the oldest and most widespread musical instruments in the world, held between teeth, and played by fingers.

JOCULATOR (a) Professional musical entertainer, jester, and humorist in ancient Rome, found e.g. in Cicero.

ARBACE (a) The film, *Dr. Watson's sidekick*, *Dr. Watson's sidekick*.

AXE (c) Rockspice for any instrument, even a piano, but generally an electric guitar.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Continued from facing page

SATURDAY

BBC1 WALKER'S 6.45am Sports. 7.30am News. 8.30am News. 9.30am News. 10.30am News. 11.30am News. 12.30pm News. 1.30pm News. 2.30pm News. 3.30pm News. 4.30pm News. 5.30pm News. 6.30pm News. 7.30pm News. 8.30pm News. 9.30pm News. 10.30pm News. 11.30pm News. 12.30pm News.

SUNDAY

BBC1 WALKER'S 6.45am Sports. 7.30am News. 8.30am News. 9.30am News. 10.30am News. 11.30am News. 12.30pm News. 1.30pm News. 2.30pm News. 3.30pm News. 4.30pm News. 5.30pm News. 6.30pm News. 7.30pm News. 8.30pm News. 9.30pm News. 10.30pm News. 11.30pm News. 12.30pm News.

league but lately reduced to advertising margarine and opening supermarkets. "I am not offering you a job," he declares portentously, "I am offering you a new life." Given Marriner's cynicism and diffidence, he seems an unlikely choice and when the channel's surveillance system discovers that his 30-year-old happy marriage is a lie, he is discreetly dumped. Sharply written and strongly acted (Dirk Bogarde plays Marriner, with Eileen Atkins as his stoic wife), *The Vision* is intended as a powerful warning of what "lightly regulated" TV might bring us. I can only say that I hardly believed a word of it.

P.W.

own writings and those of his first wife, Hilda, and her family sets the words against Spencer's paintings and shots of his Berkshire village of Cookham. Ben Kinsley plays the artist, a lookalike exercise no less convincing than his Gandhi, with Brigit Forsyth as Hilda. The emphasis is on Spencer's religious quest, its influence on his work and its interconnection with his private life. He accurately composed his own epitaph: "In trying to get the best of both worlds, the religious and the sexual one. I lost both".

Peter Waymark



Dirk Bogarde with Lee Remick in *The Vision*, a drama about satellite television- on BBC2 at 10.00pm

● The usual fear about satellite television is that it is going to unleash a flood of mindless drivel which will force the BBC and ITV to repress in kind. William Nicholson's drama, *The Vision* (BBC2, 10.00pm), offers a darker scenario. A new station, the People Channel, is about to go on air, its respectable Christian facade hiding an Orwellian monster that aims to control the hearts and minds of Europe just like the Church in the Middle Ages. For her anchorman, the icy channel boss (Lee Remick) settles on James Marriner, once a TV host in the Wogan

ITV/LONDON

6.20 Roommate (r) 6.25
Saturday Starts Here with
Corners (r) 8.40
Rugby's Hot Race 9.00
The Market Bells

9.30 Going Live!
performing star Tudor
Davies 12.12
Weather

12.15 Grandstand
introduced by Desmond
Lynch. The line-up is
(subject to alteration):
12.20 Football
Focus: 12.50 Winter
Olympics: the British
luge team 12.55 News:
1.30, 1.55 and 3.10
Rugby League preview
and live coverage of
the John Player Special
Trophy final between
Leigh and St Helens:
1.30, 1.50 and 2.55
Racing from
Leopardstown: 1.30
Singer: from Val d'Isere:
3.50
The Times: 4.40
Cyclo-cross from Sutton
Park, Birmingham:
4.35 Final starts
News with Philip
Hayes: 5.15
Regional news and
sport.

5.05 News with Philip
Hayes 5.15
Regional news and
sport.

5.30 Rollie Harris Cartoon
Time

5.45 The Filz It. Among
those for whom Jimmy
Savile fixes it is a
teenager who wants to
sue aeroplanes.
(Coefax)

6.20 Hi-de-Hi! Cive has a
change of heart about
God's. (Coefax)

6.50 Bob's Full House.
(Coefax)

7.20 The Paul Daniels
Magic Show. The guests
are acrobatic and
marital arts experts, the
Shanghai Jungo
Theatre and Frank Oliver,
a comedy juggler.
(Coefax)

8.05 Bergerac. The Jersey
detective becomes
involved in a
murderous feud between
two families. (Coefax)

9.00 News, sport and
weather.

9.15 Cagney and Lacey
investigates a number of
frauds in which both the
minnows are caught but
somewhat the "Mr
Big" always seems to slip
the net. (Coefax)

0.05 Monty Python's Flying
Circus (r).

0.30 The Dirty Dozen
(1967) starring Lee
Remick. Second World
War drama about a major
who is ordered to
select 12 convicted
murderers and train
them for a behind-the-
lines operation.
Directed by Robert
Aldrich. (Coefax)

2.55am World Darts. The
Emmery World
Championship.

1.25 Weather.

9.00 *Casablanca* 19.20 *Open University*

1.30 *The Gathering of the Clans* Gars. A documentary about the gathering of the oldest of the Scottish clans.

2.00 *Fiore Rancato* *Film* (1952) starring: Mariene Dietrich and Arthur Kennedy. A young girl is murdered and her cowboy fiancé vows to find the killer. Directed by Fritz Lang.

3.38 *The Devil Is a Woman* (1933, b/w) starring: Mariene Dietrich and Cesare Romero. A Spaniard is captivated by a woman he sees at a carnival. He thinks that she was responsible for the ruin of his best friend. Directed by Josef von Sternberg.

4.40 *World News*. Highlights from the first round of the Embassy World Championship.

5.30 *Royal Institution Christmas Lectures*. The last in the series on crystals and lasers given by Professor J.M. Thomas and Professor D. Phillips.

6.30 *International Bridge Club* presented by Clare Harrison.

7.00 *News and weather*

7.40 *Solo and Percussion Play Baroque*. Sir Georg Solti, Murray Perahia and percussionists Evelyn Glennie and David Collingall, play Baroque's Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion at the Snape Maltings.

8.40 *Die Schindler's List*. This second of three films stars Anthony Bates as Ingres, the star pupil of the exiled David (r. 1931-36) starring (1931-36) starring: Mariene Dietrich and Victor McLaglen. A romantic thriller set in Vienna during the First World War with Dietrich as the traitor who threatens his life. Directed by Josef von Sternberg.

9.40 *Blond Venus* (1932, b/w) starring: Mariene Dietrich and Carl Garm. A drama about a Berlin stage performer who marries an American who has ruined poisoning. In her effort to raise money for his treatment she works in a New York night club where she meets a rich and influential man-about-town. Directed by Josef von Sternberg. Ends at 1.15.

6.00 TV-8. Entertainment for the young **11.00**

6.35 TBS. Entertainment for the young **11.00**

Tormentors (R). **11.30**

7.00 Fox (TV-14). The first of a new series of stuntman adventures. **News.**

1.00 News.

1.05 CBS. News and weather followed by Saint and Gravelle. Ian and Jimmy preview the FA Cup third round match between Walsley Town Hall, Cheshire. **2.15 Always Have a Dream.** A profile of 16-year-old British figure skating champion, Joanne Conway. **3.00 Shockout.** Live coverage of the opening session of the final of the Mercantile Credit Classic, introduced by Dickie Davies. **4.45 Results.**

5.00 News. **5.05 LWT.** News and weather followed by Walt Disney Presents. Pluto's Playmate. **6.20 Knowledge Quiz.** General knowledge quiz game for teenagers. **6.50 The A-Team.** The fab four help break-up a picture stealing racket. **7.45 Catchphrase.** A new series of the quiz show presented by Roy Walker. **8.00 Film: Starrline (1984)** starring Helen Slater, Faye Dunaway and Peter O'Toole. Supergirl is responsible for the loss of one of Argo City's precious power sources and is sent to Earth to retrieve it. She is the wicked, powerful hungry witch, Selena, into whose hands it has fallen. Directed by Jeannot Szwarc. (Oracle). **8.35 News and Sport.**

8.55 Aspet & Company. The guests for this first show of a new series are Peter Ustinov, Flora Morton and Peter Cook. **9.40 The Big Match.** Highlights from three of today's FA Cup third round games. **10.35 Sportsday.** The second session of the final of the Mercantile Credit Classic. **11.30am Highway Patrol (TV-14).** Ben Matthews investigates a mysterious hit-and-run case. **12.00 Night Network.** Includes cartoons, videos and interviews. **1.00 Special Squad.** Police series. **1.55 American College Football.** Louisiana State University v Texas A and M. Ends at **6.00.**

9.25 *Old Country* (r, 2.55)
10.00 *My Darling Clementine* (r, 10.25)
10.05 *Scotland's Story*.
 Penultimate episode (r).
10.15 *The John Case*
 (1934, b/w) starring
 Charles Chaplin in
 the dual role of a tramp and a
 wealthy socialite.
 Directed by Charles
 Chaplin 1.50
10.20 *Dancin' Days* (r, 12.30)
 Channel 4 Racking
 the record for the week. The
 1.00, 1.30, 2.00 and
 2.35 races.
2.55 *Flare This Above All*
 (1942, b/w) starring
 Jean Forster and
 Joan Fontaine. Second
 World War romantic
 drama about an army
 doctor who marries his
 ways when he falls in
 love with a WAAF.
 Directed by Anatole
 Litvak 1.50
4.55 *My Darling Clementine*
 (r). (Oracle)
5.00 *Cartoon*
5.05 *Brookside* (r).
5.00 *Fight to Reply*.
5.30 *Stanley's Vision* (see
 7.00)
7.00 *News* summary and
 weather followed by *Anne*
 of Green Gables. The
 second and final part of
 the dramatization of
 the novel set in turn-of-
 the-century Canada
 (r).
8.30 *Knitting Party*. An
 animated film from
 Yugoslavia.
9.00 *South Riding*. Episode
 one of a 13-part drama
 about life in a
 Yorkshire county town
 during the 1930s
 based on the experiences
 of the first woman
 alderman on the East
 Riding County
 Council. Starring Dorothy
 Tutin (r). (Oracle)
9.00 *Black Forest Clinic*.
 The first episode of a
 popular West German
 series set in the south-
 west part of Germany,
 about the staff and
 patients of a hospital.
9.55 *Late Night* with David
 Leitch and the guests
 include Bill Murray.
1.45 *Barney Miller*. The
 first of a new series of
 the New York police
 comedy.
2.15 *Sean Connery's Somewhere*
Evil (1982) starring Sandy
 Dennis as a young
 woman who fights the
 devil, or possesses the
 ghost of her son. Directed
 by Steven Spielberg.
3.40 *The Raven*
 (1935, b/w) starring Boris
 Karloff and Bela
 Lugosi. A mad doctor
 becomes obsessed with
 his assistant's
 fiancée after saving
 her. Directed by Lewis
 Friedlander. Ends
 2.50

8.55 Play School (p. 9-15)
Children's television series for children
9.30 This Is the Day. A simple religious service from a viewer's home
10.00 What on Earth...? (p. 10-25)
Talking Business (p. 10-50) *Talk*
10.15 (p. 11-15) *A vous en France!* (p. 11-15)
11.40 *Espana Viva*. Spanish for Beginners (12-05) *Sign*
examines the education of deaf children in Northern Ireland.
12.30 Farming. What does the future hold for Britain's farming industry? (12-55) *Weather*.
1.00 *This Week*. Vivian White discusses the politics of privatization with the Energy Secretary, Cecil Parkinson. (2.00) *Endeavour* (p. 1)
3.00 *Match of the Day Live*. The FA Cup third round game between Ipswich and Manchester United.
4.55 *Cartoon 5.05 Fax*. Viewers questions answered.
5.30 *Avenue Roadshow* from Great Yarmouth. (Ceefax)
6.15 *In the Know*. The second of eight programmes on successful learning. (Ceefax)
6.25 *News and weather*.
6.40 *Songs of Praise* from Bangor Cathedral. (Ceefax)
7.15 *Film: The Return of the Pink Panther* (1975) starring Peter Sellers. The bumbling police inspector is demoted to a patrolman but is reinstated when the famous Pink Panther diamond is stolen. Directed by Blake Edwards. (Ceefax)
9.05 *The Gift of Life*. A *That's Life* special report on transplant surgery, including a discussion on the medical and ethical issues involved. Among those taking part are transplant surgeon Sir Roy Calne and health minister, Edwina Curry.
10.20 *News and weather*.
10.30 *Everyman: The Yarnspooler's Story*. A documentary tracing what happens to a Japanese family after the wife discovers her husband's infidelity and turns to Buddhism.
11.15 *Sporting Chance*. Paul Nicholas takes up snooker; Leslie Ash motor racing; and Ameleke Rice pole-holing (p. 11-15).
11.45 *Weather*.

9.00 **Cee'fax 9.30 Now On**
Two begins with
Beauty and Mutley
(r). **9.40 Jamaica's Story**
Time 10.05
Gypsies (r). **10.20 The**
Charlie Brown and
Snoopy Show (r)

10.35 **Now It's Your Junior**
Points of View 10.40
Police Officer
(r). **11.35 Sticks and**
Stones. Racist drama (r)

12.00 **Goodall. Clips from**
the BBC's film library
dealing with cars 1.00
Divisions (r)

1.10 **Horizon The**
implanting a Brain. A
new experimental
operation to treat
Parkinson's Disease
(r). (Cee'fax)

2.00 **Ringby Special.**
Highlights of the Welsh
Trial; Watsons v
Hawick; and Gloucester
against Leicester

3.00 **Film Roman**
1983, (b/w) starring
Audrey Hepburn, in an
Oscar-winning role, and
Charles Pack.
Romantic story of an
American journalist in
Rome who meets a
visiting princess.
Directed by William Wyler

4.55 **Music In Camera.**
The soprano Felicity Lott
sings works by Cole
Porter, Schubert, Frank
Reich and Poulenc,
accompanied by Graham
Johnson, piano.

5.45 **Skid Sunday featuring**
the Mrs. Downhill from
Val d'Isere.

6.25 **Weather to Sit?**
Weather conditions at the
major ski resorts.

7.30 **The Money**
Programme with a report
from America on the
row over the commercial
future of man-made
animals; and news of a
ship chain that is
travelling with sales
assistants to coddle the
customers.

7.15 **Eyes on the Prize.**
Part one of a six-
part miniseries on the
America's civil right
years.

8.10 **Sports Archive.**
The sporting highlights of
1983

9.00 **Did You See... ?**
Panorama. The Contract
and Rude Health are
discussed. Plus, a look at
the 1983
documentary Time on Our
Hands predicted for
1988.

9.40 **World Darts.**
The
English World
Championship.

10.00 **Screen Two: The**
Vision. (Cee'fax) (see
Choice)

11.15 **World Darts.**
Highlights of the day's
play. Ends at 12.55.

6.00 TV-am.

9.25 Wake Up London
9.30 Fraggles Rock.
10.00 713. For the young
10.30 The Adventures of Black
Beard Jr.

11.00 Meditation on Hope.
The second programme in the series on a theme of hope, from Carmel Priory.

12.00 Weekend World.
What should be done to reform the secrecy laws and should the power of the state be increased or decreased?

1.00 LWT News 1.05
1.30 1.10 p.m. Spic for the Smurfs. 1.45 My Little Pony. Animated fantasy story.

2.00 Encounter.
The counselling team of Halesowen Women's Refuge in action.

2.30 Snuffler. The closing ceremony of the Mercantile Credit Classic final.

6.00 Bullseye.

6.30 News 6.35 LWT News headlines and weather.

6.40 Where's Wally?
Seacombe in Minehead.

7.15 Surprise Surprise.
Members of the public experience the unexpected.

8.15 Harem. The first episode of a two-part romantic serial to be shown on consecutive nights. Nancy Travis, El Malik and Omar Sharif star in this story about an American heiress, on her way to Damascus to marry her fiancé, who is abducted and taken to a Sultan's harem in Constantinople.

9.45 News 9.45 Weather.

10.00 Closing Ritual by Roger Graef and Andy Smith. A drama about police corruption.

11.30 Coasting Ranks
Interviewed by David Nicholson chairs a discussion on the inferences of the drama. Among those taking part are the Roger Graef and representatives of the police force.

12.00 Happy Birthday, Bessie. Highlights of CA's four hour live programme shown on New Year's Day.

1.00am Night Network
Includes Eric Clapton and David Essex.

3.00 Film: March or Die (1977) starring Gene Hackman. A French Foreign Legion major is ordered to protest an archaeological expedition. Directed by Dick Richards.

5.00 Ben Casey. Vintage hospital drama series. Ends at 6.00.

9.25 **Movvie Mahal** (colour and b/w). Part 1 (of 23) of the history of the Indian film industry **10.00**
The World This Week

11.00 **Pob's Programme** for children. The guest is Toyah Wilcox **11.30**
The Waltons

12.00 **APL**. A new series for teenagers presented by Gaz Tapp. The guests are INXS, Wet Wet Wet, Mike Hucknall and Simon Rice.

1.30 **Opera on Four: The Return of Ulysses**. Monteverdi's opera, first performed in Venice in 1615, adapted by the modern German composer, Hans Werner Henze. Starring Thomas Allen (Ulysses) and mezzo-soprano Kathleen Kuhlmann as Penelope, with the Telzer Boys choir, Ensemble Spinto and the ORF Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Jeffrey Tate. Recordings at the Salzburg Festival.

4.53 **World of Animation**.

5.10 News summary and weather.

5.15 **The Business Programme**. Murray Lawrence talks about his plans for Lloyd's of London; and John Fisher of Barker & Doolan talks about his bid for the Dee Corporation.

6.00 **International Volleyball**. The first of a series of four programmes featuring women's volleyball.

7.15 **What On Earth Is Going On?** Monthly programme on environmental issues. (Oracle)

8.15 **The Stocks and Shares Show**. The first of 10 programmes based on the workings of the Stock Exchange.

8.45 **The Modern World: Ten Great Writers**. A new 10-part series combining drama, documentary and critical explanation to examine the life and writings of 10 modern Modernist writers, beginning with James Joyce and Ulysses.

9.55 **Film: The Mouse That Dined** (1952) starring Peter Sellers as the leader of an impoverished European Grand Duchy who declares war on the United States. Directed by Jack Arnold.

11.30 **American Football**. Indianapolis Colts at the Cleveland Browns; and the Minnesota Twins at the San Francisco 49ers. Ends at 1.00am.

VHF (medium wave). Stereo on VHF
(see below)
News on the half-hour until
2.30pm, then at 2.00, 3.30,
5.00, 7.30, 9.30 and 12.00
midnight
1.00 am Nicky Campbell **2.00**
am Peter Power **10.00** Mike Reid
11.00pm The Johnnie Walker
Country Secure. Includes 2.00-
5.00 My Top Ten Classic (Andy
Peabbles talks to Keith Richards)
5.00-5.00 The New American
Chart Show with Laura Gross
7.30-7.30 In Concert (NXS from
Londonburgh) 7.30 Robbie Vincent
8.00-12.00 Mark Gooder. **VHF**
stereo Radios 1 and 2: 4.00 am As
Radio 2 1.00 pm As Radio 1 7.30-
9.00 am As Radio 2.

PW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF.
 News on the hour until 1:00 pm,
 then at 3:00, 6:00, 7:00 and
 10:00. Country from 10:00 to
 11:00. Dave Busssey 5:00 Graham
 Knight 5:05 David Jacobs 5:00
 Sound of the Sedges (Edwin Starr)
 5:00 Anne Robinson 12:00
 Richard Harper 1:00 pm Inman and
 Friends 1:30 Sport on 2. Includes
 football, Rugby League (trial of
 the John Player Trophy) and Racing
 from Sandown Park. 5:00 A Health
 Warning (Norman Wisdom) 6:30
 Mike-Bus Saturday Night (Dave
 Busssey) 7:00 Beat the Record (Keith
 Anderson) 7:30 Gals Classics (BBC
 orchestras) 7:30 String
 Band (BBC Radio Orchestra)
 8:05 Martin Kellner 12:05 am

5.55 Weather 7.00 News
7.05 Morning Concert: Marco
 de Ferranti (Variations on
 Astoria à pié from
 Rossini's *Otello*; Simon
 Wynberg, guitar;
 Franziska Sondus in E minor
 (Unchained) Paul Meison,
 flute, and Gabriel
 Rosenberger, piano);
 Watton (Swiss: The Battle of
 Britain: LPO under
 Davis)
8.00 World Service News
8.10 Concert (continued):
 Gerstwin (Overture;
 Princess: New Princess
 Theatre Orchestra and
 Male Choir; Britten (Song-
 cycle: TR for Tat; Benjamin
 Lixton, baritone and

under Koussevitzky;
Gershwin (Rhapsody in
Blue; Peter Donohoe,
piano, and London
Sinfonietta under Rattle)
09 News
05 Record Review: with
Paul Vaughan. Includes
John Wilson's
comparison of recordings of
Palestrina's Missa
Papae.
19 Stereo Release:
Includes Mendelssohn
Overture: The Hebrides;
Montsalvo SO under Dutot;
Verdi (Ukino! Ukino!
Mentre gonfiarsi l'anima:
Philharmonia under

Renzetti); and Rossini (Oh, come il fuoco impetuoso
membo ci separò. . .
Quest'alme pupille: Raul
Gimenez, tenor, SCO under
Veltri)

15 Call Radio 3: David
Hastell, Managing Director of
Network Radio, and
John Drummond, Radio 3
Controller, answer
listeners' questions about
programmes, policies
and plans. Call 07-580 4411
to participate

00 BBC Philharmonic
Orchestra: Rachmaninov
(Piano Concerto no 3)
and Liszt (Symphonic poem:
Prometheus) with
Howard Shelley, piano.

Music for Flute and Piano: Susan Milan and Ian Brown perform Schubert (Introduction and Variations on Trölchele Blues); Iber (Jouss); Debussy (Syrinx); Messiaen (Le Merle noir); Dufleux (Sonatine) (7)

Mezco Quartet of Stuttgart: Schumann (Quartet in F, Op 47, No 2); Webern (Six Bagatelles, Op 9); Beethoven (Quartet in F, Op 135) (13)

Maurizio Pollini: Piano recital of Chopin (Impromptu No 3 in G flat, Op 51); Stravinsky (Three

Movements from
Petrushka; Chopin (Piano
Concerto No 1 in E
minor; Schumann (Fantasy
in C, Op 17); Bartok
(Piano Concerto No 2)
Jazz Records Requests
Forum: topics
include the Radio 3 play
Cronental
Bournemouth Wind
Quire: Ian Loves Octet; and
Triebensee Partita in E
flat (r)
Please: Outside the
Baptistry at 12: Reader is
Linda Poler
The baritone: Puccini's
four act opera sung in
Italian. With Fiamme Izzo
of Amico. Thomas Hamson.

Romande under Jordan
30 Don Juan: Ronald Pickup
 reads part four of the 12-
 part adaptation of Lord
 Byron's poem: Hilde (7)
05 Hungarian Piano Music:
 Zsuzsanna Stokoy plays
 Bartok (Suite, Op 14),
 Kurtag (Games) and Kodaly
 (Seven Pieces, Op 11)
50 Almost Done by David
 Mamet. Reader is Susannah
 Fellows
09 Night Thoughts:
 includes Vaughan Williams
 (Sonata to Music: LPO
 under Bolt; and Gordon
 Crosse (Dreamsongs:
 SOO) **11:57** News

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see below)
 News on the half-hour until
 1.30pm, then at 3.30, 4.30,
 5.30, 6.30 and 12.00 midnight
 6.00pm Nicky Campbell 8.00
 Peter Powell 10.00 Dave Lee
 Travis 1.00pm Sunday Odies with
 Read 3.00pm Top of the Form
 4.30 Backchat (Liz Kershaw and
 Rob Newton) 4.00 Chartbusters
 5.00 Top 40 7.00 Anne
 Nightingale Request Show 9.00
 Andy Peebles Soul Train 11.00
 2.00 Ranking Miss P. VHF
 Stereo Radios 1 and 2: 4.00am As
 Radio 2 5.00am As Radio 1
 2.00-4.00am As Radio 2.

8:00am News **7.00pm** (except 8:00pm)
Sports Desk **7:02am**, **9:03**,
1:05, **12:03pm**, **6:02**, **10:01**
9:00am Dave Hussey **5:00**
Graham Knight **7:30** Good Morning
Sunday **9:05** Melodics For You
1:00 Desmond Carrington
10:00am Barry Green **5:00** Alan
Hall **4:00** Serenade **1:30** Cait
O'Riordan **6:00** Choir
Theater with Sunday Soapbox
10:00 The Good Human Guide **7:30**
peretz Nights **8:30** Sunday Half-
hour (Ascot District Christian
Churches) **5:00** Your Hundreds
Best Tunes **10:05** Songs From The
Shows **10:45** Neil Richardson at
the piano **11:00** Sounds of Jazz
from the London Decade **3:00** **4:00**
Little Night Music.

6.55 Weather **7.00** News
7.05 English Pastorals:
Ireland (Symphonic
Rhapsody: Mal-Dur:
LPC under Boult); Britten
The Chormaster's
Burial (Winter Words, Op
52: anon (Fairy Dance:
Tink a Tink Mästock
Band); Holst (Egdon
Heath, Op 47: LPC under
Boult); Finzi (Childhood
Among the Ferns, Op 16:
Stephen Varcoe,
baritone, and Clifford
Benson, piano); Britten
(Suite on English folk tunes:
There was a Plover, Op
90: CBSO under Rattle)

8.00 World Service News

8.10 Griegius Trio: Mozart

3.05 Your Concert Choice:
Rossini (Overture): The
Silken Ladder: BBC SO
under Toscanini; Barber
Mosses passed by;
Bach (Sonata in E minor,
BWV 1034); Gounod
(Salut demeure (Faust):
Royal Opera House
Orchestra under Goossens;
Franck (String Quartet in
D: Prague Quartet) (records)
6.30 Music Weekly: Michael
Kennedy contrasts the
careers of Benjamin
Britten and Ralph Vaughan
Williams and Peter
Phillips talks to trumpeter
Hakan Hardenberger

#1.15 Ralph Kirshbaum and Roger Vignoles: Cello and piano recital. Beethoven's Variations in F on Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen, and Schumann's Fantasiestücke, Op 73

#1.2.15 Words: John Sparry, the industrial historian, reflects on language

#1.2.20 From the Festivals 1987: Aldeburgh Festival. Arleen Auger (soprano), Jeremy Menuhin (piano) and Thea King (clarinet) perform Schubert's Variations in F, K 54; Süssa D, K 576; and other Mozart works including Das Veilchen, K 476; and Des Lied der

continues:
Schubert (including
Impromptu in F minor, D 935
No. 3 and The Shepherd
on the Rock, D 958 and
Nacht und Traume, D
827)
1.55 BBC Philharmonic
Orchestra, under Edward
Downes. Works by
Walton (Overture: Scapino);
Debuss (Piano Concerto)
and Beethoven (Symphony
No 1 in C). With John
McGabe (piano)
3.00 Shura Cherkassky:
Piano recital including
Schumann (Kreisleriana,
Op 16) and Gershwin (Three

Preludes).
4.55 Janacek Chamber Orchestra: Suite for Strings and Mathias Prelude, Aria and Finale
5.30 Bergman and His Demons: Ronald Hayman assesses the Swedish film-maker's work and methods (r)
6.15 A Most Delightful Art: Consort of Musicks perform Luca Marenzio madrigals
6.45 Mozart: Endellion String Quartet perform Quartet in D and Quartet in E (r)
7.45 English Poetic works by Harrison Birtwistle - The Fields of Sorrow; Nenia; Death of Orpheus: On the

With BBC SO under Howarth, Daniel and Wood; BBC Singers, and soloists Manning, Langford, Chavell, Langridge, Angel, Rigby, Robinson, and Robson. With Ian Dearden (sound projection).

9.40 Don Juan: Slavery (5)

10.10 Pierre Danican Philidor: Suite No 3 in C

10.30 Choral Evening Song: from Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff

11.30 Chopin: Maria Bujanska (piano) performs two nocturnes: in F, Op 15, No 1; and in D flat, Op 27, No 2

11.57 News

[illegible]

- ▶ Shipping Forecast 6.00
- ▶ News Briefing Weather and Farming (Alan Wright visits Oxford Farming Conference) 6.30
- ▶ News 6.30
- ▶ News 7.00, 7.30, 8.30, 9.30 News 7.45, 8.45
- ▶ Today's Programme 7.55
- ▶ News 7.55
- ▶ News 8.55
- ▶ News bulletin 9.00
- ▶ News on 4; with Cliff Morgan 9.15
- ▶ Breakfast: Bernard Fall, Susan Marling and Peter Dinklage with latest travel and holiday news 9.30
- ▶ News: Louise Enlis covered by Ned Sherrin with Robert Ems, Craig Charles and Victoria Mather 9.45
- ▶ News: Talking Points 10.00
- ▶ News: Discuss current trends in the Opposition parties 10.30
- ▶ From Our Own Correspondents 10.45
- ▶ Money Box: Financial news and advice presented by Louise Boff 11.00
- ▶ Best of British: The new season: Willie Rushton on the British and their attitudes (1½ hours) (c)

David Owen MP:
Charles Moore (Editor
of *The Observer*), barrister
Ann Mallon; and Joanna
Foster, head of the
Independent Schools Equal
Opportunities Unit, from
Dorchester, Dorset (P)

News: Second Edition
of *News: The New* series
discussion on Radio 4's
magazine programmes
News: Telling Stories
The Guy Bushell about a
rich widow, her new
husband and her spilt
cream: an attempt to
destroy her idyllic lifestyle.
With Constance
Cummings, Laurence Payne
and John Wilson (P)

The Tale of Ben
Thompson: Kevin Byrne tells
the story of a Texan
gentleman who was born in
Yorkshire. Readers are
Della Corrie and David
Fleeshman

What's On Now: presented
by Peter Evans

Curtain Call: Actress
Sinead Phillips talks to Marilyn
Stewart about her life
and work. Ending: A special
view of the week's news
from Bill Watts, David
Tate, Sally Grace and Jon

10 edition (S)
 10 Stop the Weevil with *Art Robinson* (S)
 11 Saturday-Night Theatre:
 Miss High Heels, by Rob
 Gidding, with Ray Smith
 as a reformed pickpocket
 who cannot resist
 investigating a murder (S)
 12 *My Mind*
 presented by Richard Baker
 13 Ten to Ten: A reading, a
 hymn and retelling, led by
 Edie Nestle
 14 News
 15 Persistence to Create . . .
 Series: In verse and
 prose, with Pamela Scales
 and Timothy West
 16 *London Day, Monday*
 Howard meets Lady Emma
 Curzon who was, until
 recently, a nursing sister
 17 *The First Show* to turn
 with Paul Martin, John
 Irwin and others (S)
 18 *Whose Line Is It*
 Anyway? Give Anderson
 chains ad-libbed comedy
 with John Sessions,
 Stephen Fry, Hugh
 Laurie and Reni Raitel (S)
 19 *Who's the Weather?*
 IF as above except: 1.55-2.00
 Programme News: 4.30-6.00
 20 *News*
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4.00 Haydn; and the Faithful Hound: The Welsh legend of the hound Gelert, in tribute to what Haydn wrote as an adult Welsh folk-song. Presented by Stan Lloyd. Reader Dilwyn Jones.

4.47 Even Further Up The Tye in a Plumcot: Leonard Barras reads two of his stories

5.00 Invitation to a Home in the Menai Strait area, North Wales 5.50 Shipping Bulletin

5.15 Feedback: Christopher Dunkley asks your comments about BBC programmes and policies (r)

5.30 International Assignment (r) News: Getting To Know You - the psychological techniques being used by big business to tighten up selection procedures

6.30 On (2) The Man and the Moon Road Dances (r)

6.40 Bookshelf: The market research that goes into the design of book dust-jackets. By David Ford

6.50 Never the Same Again: Jenni Mills meets families who

9.30-10.43pm 93.3Hz/433m; 90.9Hz/430m; R

who had to give up the
ferry boat and now runs a
ferry boat in
Northumberland
8.00 News; Caribbean Drift (C)
The Ferry School, by Ruel
White
9.15 The Natural History
Programme with Fergus
Gordon
10.00 News
10.15 Pain – The Final Threshold
Doris Parker examines
some old and new
treatments, and visits one
clinic in Glasgow which
helps sufferers cope with
pain
11.00 Kilmarnock: Cindy Selby,
one of the many amateurs
to attempt the ascent of the
highest mountain in Africa,
tells about the experience (C)
1.30 Seeds of Faith: Beyond the
Sacred Place with Myrtle
Langley (s)
2.00 News; Weather 12.30
VHF as above except: 4.55-
5.00pm Programme News 4.55-
5.00pm Options: 4.50 The Materials
Science Programme
5.00 A vous le Franco! 5.30
spana Viva 5.45 Gnat Gonzalo

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Hanson to expand empire with £69m Armitage buy

By Cliff Feltham

Hanson, the industrial conglomerate, is digging into its vast cash pile to buy George Armitage, one of the country's oldest brick-making companies, in a deal worth £69 million.

Hanson is making the bid through its subsidiary Butterley Brick, which already has around 11 per cent of the British brick market.

The acquisition will further tighten Hanson's grip on the brick-making industry, but could run into trouble with the Office of Fair Trading, which advises the Government on whether a takeover should be examined by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Armitage, which was established in 1824, earns most of its profits from turning out speciality bricks and has a 2½ per cent share of the market.

Hanson stressed that the operation will be run entirely separately from its London Brick business, which has the lion's share of the market in flat bricks, widely used in housebuilding.

"We have considered the OFT situation but believe we have a strong case for arguing there is no reason for a referral," said Mr Anthony Cotton, chairman of Butterley Brick, yesterday. "Butterley and Armitage operate in a different area of the market to London Brick."

Armitage, which has been in family hands since it was founded, was put up for auction last year to enable many of its 150 shareholders to realize their investments.

Mr Geoffrey Armitage, the chairman, said: "The number

of small brick companies is getting fewer and we decided that we would have better protection under the umbrella of a larger organization.

"Considerable interest was shown in buying the company, but the best offer came from Hanson. We have also known the Butterley people for a long time. I don't think there is a great chance of the OFT taking an interest in the get-together."

Mr Armitage and his boardroom colleagues, who control 20 per cent of the company, are recommending other shareholders to accept the terms.

Hanson — which, it is rumoured, is preparing for a big acquisition in the United States this year and has been

linked with targets in this country, such as Sears and BET — is making a small dent in its cash pile to pay for Armitage.

It is offering cash or loan stock for the ordinary, unquoted shares. For the listed Armitage preference shares it is offering 110p cash for the 5 per cent stock and 215p for the 10½ per cent stock. This gives holders a 70 per cent increase over the value of the shares before last October's announcement that offers were being invited for the company.

Armitage, which employs around 400 people at two factories in West Yorkshire and one in Lancashire, is warranting profits before tax of not less than £5.5 million for the year just ended.

Borthwicks disposals raise £10m

By Our City Staff

Borthwicks, the food manufacturer, is selling its meat processing business in Australia and its associated trading operations in Japan for approximately £10.2 million.

The buyer is Tey's Bros, a private company, which is based in Queensland, Australia, and which has an established position in the country's meat processing market.

Net assets of the Australian operation were Aus\$25.1 million (£11.1 million) at its year-end of September 27 and £487,000 for the Japanese branch.

Combined turnover last year was £116.7 million and the profit before tax contribution to Borthwicks was £283,000.

The sale will help reduce Borthwicks' currency exposure and bring group borrowings down to very conservative levels, the company said.

In the year to September 27, Borthwicks made a pretax loss of £2.1 million after paying interest of nearly £2 million. Net borrowings were £15.1 million.

The company has been carrying out a divestment programme over the past two years, which has helped bring down its interest costs.

Although current trading is not considered to be satisfactory, mainly because of problems in the core British meat handling business, the second half is expected to show some improvement over the first half.



Transport of delight: Stephen Starbuck, aged 5, and his father Robert admire the new Dinky Jaguar model, to be launched at the Harrogate Toy Fair today (Photograph by Barry Wilkinson)

Dinky roars back to life

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

A new generation of Dinky toys, off the market since 1979, will be unveiled today at the Harrogate Toy Fair. Trade buyers will receive their first production models later this year.

Dinky started life in the 1930s, but had its heyday from the 1940s to the 1960s. Today, collectors are prepared to pay hundreds of pounds for a single rare model.

The first three marques presented at Harrogate will be classic cars — an E-Type Jaguar, a 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air and a 1966 MGB GT. They will retail for around £5.

Dinky is being relaunched by Matchbox UK, part of

Hong Kong-based Matchbox International, which bought the Dinky name last April from the American Palitoy organization. Research, development and design of the new range is being done in Britain, while production will be at Matchbox's centralized die-casting factories in the Far East.

Mr Gerry Tokerian, the marketing manager of Matchbox UK, said: "We shall keep the old Dinky flavour, but these will be much more detailed models, compared with the old ones. The Jaguar, for instance, will have properly spoked wheels."

Initial production runs on

the three Dinky cars is likely to be around 100,000 for each model. Subsequent extensions of the range could include production of models of current cars.

The Dinky launch coincides with retailers' assessment of December sales, including the run-up to Christmas and the first days of post-Christmas sales.

Post-Christmas sales began "very briskly" according to Mr Richard Weir, the director general of the Retail Consortium, the trade body for most retailers. He said December sales were expected to be better, in both value and volume, than in 1986.

Sears raises stake to 21%

By Alison Eadie

Sears, the retailing group whose empire covers Selfridges, the British Shoe Corporation, the Olympus sports chain and Mappin and Webb, has raised its holding in Freemans, the mail order company, to 21.6 per cent.

Sears yesterday agreed to acquire 8.5 million shares or 5.6 per cent of Freemans at 315p, the price of its cash offer. Earlier this week Sears raised its offer to £477 million from £430 million and declared the bid final.

Freemans has continued to reject the offer as being inadequate, but Sears has steadily been increasing its stake.

It bought 10 per cent in a dawn raid when the takeover bid was launched in December, and this week has added a further 11.6 per cent through market purchases and acceptance from Freemans shareholders.

Sears has dispatched its increased offer document to shareholders this week.

In it, Mr Geoffrey Maitland Smith, the Sears chairman, said that neither the record nor the problems of the current period offered any real comfort that Freemans on its own was able to grasp the opportunities for the future which the board had outlined in its defence document.

Mr Maitland Smith said: "I think institutions have decided to take the money that is on the table and invest it. Some of them may be a bit worried about any possible involvement with the Office of Fair Trading over the bid but that does not cause me any concern."

The board of Freemans believes that only Sears shareholders would benefit from such a takeover. The bid closes on January 22. Freemans shares were unchanged at 311p yesterday.

Stonehill buys David Hicks

Incipor Earl, the mini-merchant bank — best known for its attempts to organize demergers such as Storehouse — is bringing together clients Stonehill Holdings, the furniture manufacturer, with interior designers David Hicks.

Stonehill, whose ruling Steinberg family sold out to a consortium last year, is issuing £1.2 million of shares now for David Hicks and a similar tranche in two years' time if the business has made average profits of at least £225,000.

COMMENT

Economy may need a winter cooler

Some of the Chancellor's best friends are telling him he should be putting up interest rates to cool the economy. The problem is that such a move could make Nigel Lawson, who has been as vocal as anyone in his calls for international co-operation to stabilize the dollar, the black sheep of the Group of Seven family.

The pressures for higher rates were neatly summarized by the Governor of the Bank of England in his speech in Dundee on Thursday. Domestic demand is growing at a rate which, even with the buoyancy of manufacturing output, guarantees a widening of Britain's current account deficit. And, with the stock market crash having apparently not directed a powerful enough hose on the parts of the economy that are overheating, there is little evidence — so far at least — to suggest an autonomous slowdown in demand.

The central banks, including the Bank of England, shot from the hip in bringing interest rates down quickly in the wake of Black Monday. The Bank, having signalled in August that a base rate of 10 per cent was appropriate, given the overheating evidence present in Britain, acquiesced in a speedy reduction in rates to 8.5 per cent.

Now, with the stock market having returned to a more normal state, daily movements in equity prices have moved well down the list of indicators which the authorities take into account in setting interest rates. The sterling exchange rate against the mark, now no longer bumping up against the DM3 ceiling, has also become a less urgent focus, at least in the sense of forcing down interest rates in Britain.

But the extent to which the Bank will be able to put rates back up to a level which calms its worries about inflationary pressures in Britain — and that level is presumably somewhere between 8.5 and 10 per cent — is a question which remains firmly in an international context. There is a certain amount of hedging of bets in the markets — the three-month interbank rate is consistent with 9 per cent base rates, short-dated gilts with 9.5 per cent — but there is no doubt about expectations of the general direction for rates.

But what happens if the dollar, perhaps hit by worse-than-expected trade figures next Friday, sets off on a new, downward spiral? And if this led to even a pale shadow of the stock market reaction to similar events last year, then it would be difficult for the British authorities to raise rates.

We have become used to the environment for interest rates in Britain being set by sterling's rate against the mark and the conduct of monetary policy by

the Bundesbank. Perhaps, for a time at least, we are back in the old situation where the main influences on interest rates here are the dollar and US interest rates.

It has been a market assumption that the last thing we are likely to see in election year in the US is higher interest rates and so any interest rate differential in favour of the dollar will have to be produced by lower rates elsewhere. But, as Barclays de Zoete Wedd points out, US interest rates have risen prior to the presidential polls in five out of 10 election years since the Second World War. Significantly, rates were raised in both 1980 and 1984. Perhaps all this talk from the Chancellor about higher US interest rates is to give him the option of raising rates in Britain.

Toast of the Treasury

The toast of the Treasury last night was the Kuwait Investment Office after it told officials that there were no malign or subversive reasons for its buying more than 18 per cent of British Petroleum.

The Kuwait Investment Office saved the Treasury nearly £800 million by buying the BP new shares at prices significantly above the 70p at which Mr Lawson committed the Bank of England to buying any number of new shares that any holder wished to unload. When the offer closed this week, only 2 per cent of the 2.2 billion shares which were issued were turned over to the Bank. It was on the line to pay out £1.5 billion if all the shares had been delivered to the doors of Threadneedle Street. In the event, it has to cough up a mere £27 million, a figure that is too small to make any difference at all to the Chancellor's accounts.

The fear was, until now, that the KIO had ambitions for BP which would not coincide with either the Government's or the company's idea of what makes a good deal. Now, the Kuwaiti authorities have assured the Treasury that all it wants is a long-term investment. It has no ambitions to control BP nor any interest in any management role, they say. The temptation, at this point, is to breathe a sigh of relief and thank the men from the Gulf for carrying out a good deed in a naughty world.

Life is not, however, that simple, nor BP so naive. The fact remains that there is a powerful block of shares brought together under one ownership and even if neither the KIO nor its political masters have desire to influence the management, BP cannot help but be aware of the dangers of upsetting its largest shareholder. That size of shareholding could be used as a springboard for aggressive action at any time and, so long as it remains intact, BP will never be entirely comfortable.

TEMPUS

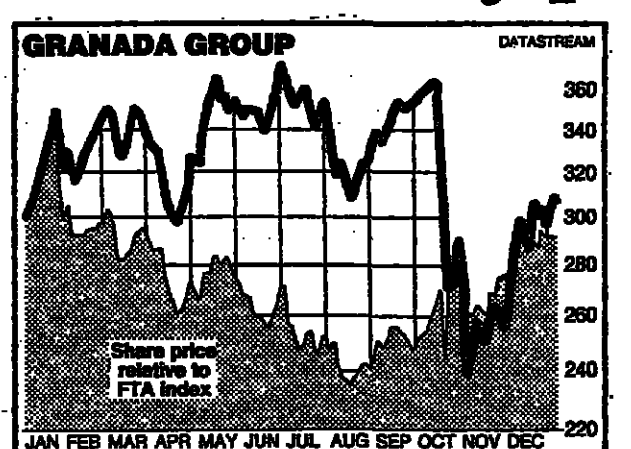
Granada's long-term strategy still presents a hazy picture

The launch of Granada's first big takeover bid after Black Monday was seen by some as brilliant opportunism but by others as recklessness. And this was before taking into account the earnings potential of Electronic Rentals, the object of Granada's attentions.

But even after considering the fundamentals commentators were similarly divided. Some thought the bid showed Granada retrenching into familiar markets in search of cash flow. They believed Granada would rely on rationalization benefits to boost profits for a few years, giving a management team not known for providing a clear group strategy time to think up the next move.

Their assumption was based on the opportunity Granada now has to concentrate its rental resources and reduce the 1,000-plus Granada and Visionaire (Electronic Rentals) outlets by up to 25 per cent.

Others, inclined to take a positive stance, believe the cash flow could be put to good use. Infill acquisitions



are being made all the time while, in the medium term, equity or cash could be used for a more substantial move.

Much attention has been given to the shrinkage of the rental market. Demand is still falling as disposable income rises, but the rate of decline has slowed and Granada's fans have spotted signs of stability.

They also cite the potential of an increased rental market share.

And the totally convinced are arguing that rental activ-

ity may increase again in recessionary times, so Granada is wisely providing itself with insurance.

Yet even if the Electronic Rentals deal incurs marginal dilution in year one and enhances earnings thereafter, there is still a questionmark over Granada's overall strategy.

Acquisitions such as yesterday's in the computer services sector appear to be satisfactory, but the breadth of the leisure umbrella allows the group the luxury of adop-

ting a piecemeal approach. In the longer term this may prove a winning formula. Granada's shares are in the process of being re-rated — the group is one of the winners since October.

The shares sell on a 4 per cent discount to the market on this year's forecast of £145 million. Next year, earnings should move ahead faster than the market and could touch 36p — a rise of 23 per cent.

The rental and retail business is again the most important part of the group. Faster growth may be being experienced in more far-reaching parts of the empire, but by spending £250 million on Electronic Rentals, Granada demonstrates it is still very committed to this business.

There is a vague chance that Granada may itself become the subject of an opportunistic bid. This, together with the likelihood of further re-rating as investors pin hopes of one of the diverse activities developing into a powerhouse for the future, makes the shares worth a hold.

De Beers' love affair with Wall Street

If you believe in Wall Street there is every reason to believe in De Beers. Confidence in the former spills over to the latter, and now that the Dow Jones is again back over the 2,000 level and beginning to look steadier on its feet after its shaky performance post-October, De Beers' shares are starting to pick up.

Before the October crash, De Beers' shares had steadily advanced from a January 1987 starting point of 520p to a year's high of 1,059p on October 12.

Two weeks later the share price was cut down by more than half to 483p. The investor then taking the view that the fall had gone too far would have done well to have bought the shares. By now he would be sitting on a profit of £1 plus a share, with De Beers

reaching 585p at one point yesterday.

With Thursday's annual sales figures from its marketing arm, the Central Selling Organisation, showing what a sparkling year 1987 was for diamond sales — annual sales are 20 per cent higher at a record \$3.08 billion (£1.7 billion) — and after last August's announcement of interim figures for the six months ended June 30, De Beers itself is set to produce record results for the year ended December in mid-March.

De Beers is not, however, only diamonds. There are diamond trading activities which generate profit for the group, and also a massive portfolio of mining and industrial investments, including substantial stakes in Anglo American and Min-

orco, giving it representation in the more important South African gold mining companies.

Because De Beers' interim dividend last August was raised from 20 South African cents to 27.5 cents a share, after group earnings rose at the attributable level from 118 cents to 164 cents (or excluding the share of retained profits of associates from 73 cents to 109 cents a share), there is every reason to expect a respectable increase in the final dividend.

A full R1 at least is expected for the year after the 1986 total payment of 80 cents, with some looking for at least another 10 cents on top of that to make a 110 cents a share payment.

The key to how much confidence De Beers is able to show when announcing year-

end results lies in the mood of the diamond market as 1988 progresses. The financial nervousness of last October hit diamond sales in November and December, and the imminent January sight will be the first indication of whether confidence is fully restored or still weak.

However, one of the fundamental strengths of De Beers is the financial muscle behind it — few groups can boast the ability to borrow, if needed, up to \$6.21 billion (£1.77 billion), and even though the diamond stockpile will have increased after last year's Botswana deal, holding parcels of diamond stocks whose value has a knack of only going up can be no bad thing.

Investors wanting a cheaper entry into the world of diamonds should look at Ashton Mining, quoted at 59p yesterday.

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"How does BES work?"

Johnson Fry are the UK's largest sponsor of Business Expansion Schemes (BES) — a system of tax free investment in new business. You invest your money in BES issues and deduct the total cost right off the top of your tax bill. Not only do you make considerable tax savings but you are also investing in some of the most exciting and promising new companies around.

"But aren't BES investments risky?"

There is an element of risk in all investment. However, very few start-up companies have the same benefits as those under the BES — starting off with no borrowings and a load of cash in the pot. So far only 4% of BES companies who have raised money through prospectuses have gone bust (none of which were Johnson Fry Issues) — this is well below the national average for companies in general.

"Give me one good mathematical reason why I should invest in BES rather than quoted shares."

Assume that you are a 60% taxpayer, already using all your Capital Gains allowance. The FT30 Index over five years to 1st October '87 rose 321% — one of the greatest equity bull markets ever. Mind you, to 1st November '87 the rise is a more modest 223%. Assuming a gross BES investment doubles over 5 years (i.e. 100% growth), which is the minimum target for our issues, then an equity investment would have to rise by 560% in the five year period to equate to the net return to you from the BES investment (after allowing for Capital Gains Tax and 4% indexation on the straight equity investment). A 560% rise or a 100% rise: which is more likely over 5 years? You choose.

"Will I be able to understand the prospectus documents that are sent to me and select the best investments for me?"

You should be able to. At Johnson Fry we choose our BES issues from hundreds of applications — we, naturally, believe we are good selectors. We also believe in a spread of

BES investments across a number of issues. Some people find it difficult to get through the paperwork and make up their minds. At Johnson Fry, we can do all this for you, if you give us discretion to do so, through the Third Johnson Fry BES (see coupon).

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Address _____				
Postcode _____				
Daytime tel. _____				
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Company	Opens	Closes	Comment	
County Resort Hotels	6.1	15.2	'Parent' to USM soon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Edinburgh Tankers	12.1	19.2	Second tranche finance	<input type="checkbox"/>
*Northern Indep. Hospitals	19.1	26.2	Expanding Hospital Grp.	<input type="checkbox"/>
*Fast Forward Inns	26.1	4.3	Very popular 1987 issue	<input type="checkbox"/>
*Echo Hotels	2.2	11.3	Glasgow £20m hotel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fowmes Hotels	Open	31.3	Min. £1.35m exceeded	<input type="checkbox"/>
* These issues will be forwarded immediately when available.				
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This advertisement is not an invitation to subscribe for shares.

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded return at tax rates	Min/max investment	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c	2.50	2.52	1.30	1.38	1 min 0-7 day
Fixed Term Deposits	2.50	2.52	1.30	1.38	1 min 7 day
National Westminster	5.88	5.88	4.43	3.22	10,000-24,999
Midland	6.13	6.13	4.62	3.36	10,000-24,999
5.41	5.41	4.08	2.96	10,000-24,999	1 min
5.83	5.83	4.39	3.19	10,000-24,999	6 min

BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Ordinary A/c	4.00	4.04	3.04	2.21	1 min
Britannia	6.15	6.15	4.63	3.37	250 min
Northern Rock	6.35	6.35	4.78	3.48	500 min
Cheltenham & Gloucester	6.75	6.75	5.09	3.70	5,000 min
Cheltenham & Gloucester	7.05	7.05	5.31	3.86	10,000 min
Northern Rock	7.30	7.30	5.50	4.20	20,000 min
Nationwide Non-Risk	8.75	8.75	6.75	8.75	1 min

MONEY FUNDS					
Altkon Hume Monthly Inc	5.83	5.99	4.51	3.28	1,000 min
Altkon Hume Monthly Inc	6.11	6.29	4.74	3.45	3,000 min
Bank of Scotland	5.75	5.91	4.45	3.24	2,500 min
Berleys High Rate Dep	5.75	5.88	4.43	3.22	1,000 min
Britannia High Interest	5.88	6.01	4.53	3.28	2,500 min
Cheltenham & Gloucester	5.50	5.69	4.25	3.09	2,000 min
HFC Trust & Savings	7.50	7.64	5.76	4.19	5,000 min
Henderson Cheque A/c	5.75	5.91	4.45	3.24	2,500 min
L & G High Int Deposit	6.25	6.34	4.78	3.47	1,000 min
Lloyds Investment A/c	6.40	6.40	4.82	3.51	5,000 min
Lloyds HCA	4.80	4.91	3.70	2.69	1,000 min
MS&H HCA	5.83	5.99	4.51	3.28	2,500 min
Midland HCA	5.50	5.61	4.23	3.07	2,000 min
Nat West Special Reserve	6.00	6.14	4.63	3.36	10,000 min
Oppenheimer Money Mgmt	5.75	5.88	4.43	3.22	2,000 min
Philips & Drew HCA	5.88	6.06	4.57	3.32	10,000 min
Provincial Trust Cheq A/c	6.02	6.15	4.63	3.37	1,000 min
Royal Bk of Scot Prem A/c	6.38	6.77	5.10	3.71	1,000 min
S & P Classic	6.00	6.14	4.63	3.36	2,500 min
Schroder Wegg	5.70	5.87	4.42	3.22	500 min
Tyndall Call	5.84	5.90	4.37	3.18	2,500 min
Tyndall 7-day	6.12	6.26	4.78	3.43	2,500 min
UDT 7-day	5.83	6.06	4.57	3.32	5,000 min
Western Trust	6.18	6.36	4.79	3.48	2,500 min

NATIONAL SAVINGS					
Ordinary A/c	5.00	5.12	3.85	2.80	1-10,000
Investment A/c	10.00	7.30	5.50	4.00	1-10,000
Income Bond	10.00	7.30	5.50	4.00	1-10,000
3rd Issue Cert	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	25-1,000
Yearly Plan	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	20-200/mth
General Extension Rate	6.51	6.51	6.51	6.51	
Retail Price Index Nov	103.4	103.4	103.4	103.4	

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS					
General Portfolio	7.50	7.50	6.15	5.03	1,000 min
General Portfolio	7.50	7.50	6.15	5.03	1,000 min
General Portfolio	7.50	7.50	6.15	5.03	1,000 min
Financial Assurance	8.50	8.50	6.97	5.70	2,000 min

LOCAL AUTHORITY TOWN HALL BONDS					
Northampton	6.58	6.58	4.96	3.81	500 min
Kirkcaldy	6.75	6.75	5.09	3.70	500 min
Kirkcaldy	6.75	6.75	5.09	3.70	500 min
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min
Vale of Glamorgan	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min
Bristol	6.48	6.48	4.88	3.55	1,000 min
Bristol	6.48	6.48	4.88	3.55	1,000 min

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS					
US Dollar	7.63				7 day
US Dollar	6.10				7 day
Yen	3.17				7 day
D Mark	2.56				7 day
French Franc	7.31				7 day
Swiss Franc	1.61				7 day

*Interest taxable, paid gross. †Tax free. ‡Higher returns for larger balances. §All major banks. Net West & Barclays 2.63%. ¶Societies chosen on high street presence, higher rates can sometimes be obtained from smaller societies - contact Chase de Vere Moneyline 01-404 5766. ††2.5 per cent for balances below £200, first £70 of interest tax free. †††Interest on deposits for withdrawal of £100 or less. ††††Additional £2,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured certificates. †††††Charge for instant access. Research Deborah Bone

Edited by Amanda Pardoe

FAMILY MONEY/1

New PEP, new plea

The plea to the Chancellor for an improved Personal Equity Plan framework was voiced again this week. While launching Framlington's PEP 88, the managing director Tim Miller said: "Nobody was more enthusiastic than I when PEPs were announced and nobody was more disappointed when details of the structure were given."

In common with other plan managers, Mr Miller would like to see the tax benefits made more attractive. However, what concerns him most, is the £420 investment limit imposed on PEP unit trusts. He would like this raised to £2,400 a year in line with PEPs invested directly in equities.

Those PEPs restricted to holdings in unit trusts are usually invested in existing unit trusts. So unit holders will be a combination of PEP investors and people who have simply bought units in that fund in the usual way.

The Framlington PEP 88,

launched today, is different. It follows the same format as the group's 1987 plan, that is, a single unit trust set up specifically to operate within the PEP framework. So only PEP 88 investors have a holding in this fund. The idea behind this structure is to provide investors with a simple plan that gives them access to equities through a unit trust.

PEP 88 can be invested in any quoted British company, and up to 25 per cent may be held in shares quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Mr Miller argues that if PEPs like Framlington's were allowed the full £2,400 "we could transform the market for PEPs with a product which satisfies the spirit of the PEP movement just as well as a conventional PEP, while at the same time giving the

novice investors a rather better spread of risk and a real sense of involvement."

As far as involvement goes, PEP 88 has provisions for detailed reporting of annual meetings and for polling members on issues such as take-over bids. Now that PEP managers no longer have to send out reports and accounts of all the underlying companies, Mr Miller contends that members of its plans will be getting more information than members of most conventional discretionary PEPs.

Robin Bloor, senior manager of Chase de Vere and co-editor of its *PEPGUIDE*, thinks the format of Framlington's PEP is a good idea for anyone interested in a PEP invested solely in unit trusts, as investment decisions will be made bearing in mind the seasonal inflow of funds into PEPs and the period for which the plans are likely to be held.

PEP 87, despite the investment limit, proved popular. It



Tim Miller: "disappointed"

has about 9,300 plan-holders. By December 31, the offer price of the fund was up by 15 per cent.

PEP 88 has a fixed investment of £420. Until January 29, units will cost 50p each. There is an initial charge of 5 per cent and an annual management fee of 1 per cent.

Amanda Pardoe

The Saudi Brits sigh with relief

Thousands of British expatriates working in Saudi Arabia were shocked to hear this week that income tax, abolished in 1975, was to be reintroduced, by royal decree.

The dramatic reaction to the announcement, however, brought about an almost immediate reversal of the proposals. Even before King Fahd had revoked the announcement, the *Saudi Gazette* carried the headline, "Expatriate tax rates still under study". The scale ranged from 5 per cent on 6,000 riyals to 30 per cent on any expatriate's earnings over 66,000 riyals, or roughly £9,400.

Mr Roberts says his firm has not recruited anyone for less than £10,000 a year in the past three years. The minimum the firm would consider acceptable for a skilled worker there is £1,000 a month. The

reaction to the proposals, scheduled to come into effect on January 21, was swift, and Saudi Arabia faced the prospect of a mass exodus of its expatriate workforce.

Keith Murdoch, of Employment Conditions Abroad, which is effectively an employers' association, says that on Monday around 10 per cent of his client companies with staff in Saudi contacted the organization. One reported that its workforce had threatened to hand in their contracts.

Under the proposals, few British expatriates would have been likely to escape paying tax at the top rate, as the thresholds due to be used were the same as in the early 1970s.

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Fahd had not cancelled the announcement "it is probable that 60-70 per cent of British expatriates would have left within a month".

A spokesman for British Aerospace, which has 2,000 employees in Saudi Arabia, said the company had no staff difficulties as the episode was over so quickly. Speculation as to what will happen next is, not surprisingly, rife. One suggestion is that the threshold levels will be raised. Another is that a tax on the lines of the old General Organisation for Social Insurance, which was abolished on March 1 last year, is similar to our National Insurance contributions. Employees paid 5 per cent of their salaries and their employers contributed 8 per cent. The money was used to provide pensions, sickness and hospital care.

Should the Saudis decide to make a move, Mr Roberts believes it will be much less onerous than the recent proposals and that it could be "easily absorbed". However, he expects it will be six or 12 months before any further announcement is made, in order to let the dust settle.

AP

KEY RATES

Retail Prices Index (Nov '86 to Nov '87)

+4.1%

Mortgage rate*

10.0%-10.5%

Bank base rate

8.50%

Bank prime overdraft rate*

13%-18% APR

Personal loan rate*

19.7% APR

Credit card rate*

23.1% APR

Hire purchase rate*

28% APR

Bank deposit account

2.50-2.83%

Building society ordinary account

4%

High-interest cheque account*

5.90%

Holiday exchange rates*

Spanish peseta 188.50

French franc 9.91

Greek drachma 250

Italian lira 2155

*Typical rates

†1987 over 12 months

APR = annual percentage rate

THIS WEEK

Unit trusts.....2

Dumoni take-over.....3

Attendance allowance.....3

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN.....8.50%

Adam & Company.....8.50%

BCCI.....8.50%

Consolidated Citi.....8.50%

Co-operative Bank.....8.50%

C. Hoare & Co.....8.50%

Hong Kong & Shanghai.....8.50%

Lloyds Bank.....8.50%

Nat West.....8.50%

Royal Bank of Scotland.....8.50%

TSB.....8.50%

Citibank NA.....8.50%

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Weekly chng	Yld		Bid	Offer	Weekly chng	Yld		Bid	Offer	Weekly chng	Yld		Bid	Offer	Weekly chng	Yld
ACTIVA LIFE INSURANCE	401	401	0.00	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
401 St John Street, London EC1V 4AE	401	401	0.00	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
01-627 6694	401	401	0.00	0.00	Life funds	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Life funds	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Life funds	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
Life funds	401	401	0.00	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
Equity	401	401	0.00	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
Midland Bk UT	401	401	0.00	0.00	Life funds	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Life funds	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Life funds	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
Life funds	401	401	0.00	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
Equity	401	401	0.00	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
Midland Bk UT	401	401	0.00	0.00	Life funds	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Life funds	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Life funds	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
Life funds	401	401	0.00	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
Equity	401	401	0.00	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
Midland Bk UT	401	401	0.00	0.00	Life funds	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Life funds	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Life funds	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
Life funds	401	401	0.00	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
Equity	401	401	0.00	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
Midland Bk UT	401	401	0.00	0.00	Life funds	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Life funds	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Life funds	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
Life funds	401	401	0.00	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
Equity	401	401	0.00	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
Midland Bk UT	401	401	0.00	0.00	Life funds	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Life funds	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Life funds	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
Life funds	401	401	0.00	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Equity	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00
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Equity	401	401	0.00	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4	288.4	+0.1	0.00	Midland Bk UT	288.4								

FAMILY MONEY/2

The year investors learned about the stock market



If nothing else, 1987 was the year when unit trust investors got to know the small print of their fund brochures. Health warnings such as "Unit trust prices can go down as well as up" and "Unit trusts should be regarded as a long-term investment" suddenly re-emerged after having been largely ignored during the long bull-market euphoria.

Investors also had to come to terms with the ramifications of trusts moving from an offer to a bid price basis, and indeed, failing to quote any prices at all, as management groups found themselves unable to cope with the speed, and severity of the October stock market crash.

In many ways, however, investors and unit trust groups alike needed something dramatic to happen to force them back to the basics of what unit

Conventional wisdom took a back seat

trust investment should really be about. The industry was being carried away on a wave of mega-launches and recorded new business figures set against the background of booming world-wide equity markets.

New funds were becoming ever more specialized. Although this in itself was not so worrying, the fact that these highly specialized vehicles were pulling in £20 million, £30 million or even £40 million showed how conventional investment wisdom had taken a back seat in favour of the flavour-of-the-month, short-term, get-rich-quick mentality.

It had taken the unit trust industry more than 10 years to get back to the number of account-holders that it had before the 1974 bear market. But there is no doubt that on the back of the Government's wider share ownership campaign, unit trusts had finally made the big breakthrough in terms of reaching the investor who had historically felt safer putting his money in a building society.

How much of this new ground will be lost because of events post-October 19 remains to be seen. It will be a great pity if this new breed of investor now deserts unit trusts. They have not suddenly become a bad invest-

ment overnight, and as the tables accompanying this article show, even after the crash a number of funds continue to show a healthy return to investors over the year.

Around 44 per cent of the 977 funds made some sort of profit for investors over the 12-month period, while 28 per cent outperformed the FT All-Share Index, which itself was up by almost 7 per cent.

With the benefit of hindsight, the UK market was the place to be invested in last year, while the United States, Australia, Hong Kong and Europe were the sectors to have avoided.

UK income funds have stood up particularly well with the average performance for that sector being a healthy plus 14 per cent. Special mention must be made of Key Income and Guinness Mahon High Income funds in this respect. These funds obtained places in the top tens over both the one-year and three-year periods.

Average performances of unit trusts in six of the eight UK sectors were positive, in fact, with the investment trust and financial and property sectors being the only exceptions. This contrasts sharply with the non-UK funds, where the sector averages ranged from -1.9 per cent in Japan to -32 per cent in the European fund sector.

The Japanese market has weathered the trials and tribulations of the past few months rather better than most and continues to defy most of the standard investment theories. Losses among the 59 funds in the sector over 1987 were kept to reasonable levels, while a number of funds still managed to be invested in the right stocks at the right time. The Baring Japan Sunrise fund recorded a 30.9 per cent gain over the

Europe has been a disaster area

year while Fidelity Japan Special Situations returned a creditable 26.2 per cent.

By contrast, Europe has been something of a disaster area for unit trust investors. European success several years ago saw this sector swell rapidly as a number of management groups jumped on the bandwagon. The past 12 months or so have seen the addition of several specialized West German, French, Swiss, Dutch, Spanish and even Italian funds to add to the general European vehicles.

Not one of the 84 funds in the sector made any sort of gain over last year, however, with the worst, Dumenil's French Growth fund, recording a 47.9 per cent loss.

Broadly based European funds did much better than the one-country specialist vehicles, emphasizing one of the basic principles of unit trust investing - that of spreading the risk.

Investors who follow the bottom-fishing approach to selection (choosing last year's worst performer on the basis that it can only improve) also came unstuck. Target Australian, 1987's wooden spoon recipient with a loss over the year of 68.4 per cent, was also the bottom fund over the two-year, three-year and four-year periods.

Another popular investment approach has been to go for new fund launches on the basis that a small fund is more flexible and the managers have a better chance and more incentive to achieve a good performance.

New investors will be harder to find

But as Royal Life investors found, when the company had the misfortune to break into the market just weeks before the crash, this philosophy does not always work. Last year was definitely one for the solid, unexciting funds going for long-term growth.

The worry for the unit trust industry over 1988 must be that new investors will be rather harder to find, and that existing investors will wait for some sort of revival and then cash in, perhaps never to return. If this actually happens, the groups themselves must shoulder much of the responsibility.

As the stock markets boomed, many unit trust groups were more than happy to emphasize short-term performance figures and launch new specialist funds to pull in fledgling investors flushed with their success with TSB or British Gas.

They must now revert to the basics of advising clients to compile a sensible portfolio of solid long-term funds, supplemented only at the edges by the more volatile vehicles. Time alone will tell whether or not they have quashed their pitch until the next bull run gets going.

The creation of jobs through self-employment or through expansion of small businesses is a major plank of the Government's economic strategy. As a result, getting finance to set up in business or to expand a small business is no longer the problem it used to be.

But once you are self-employed, what kind of access do you have to credit for non-business purposes, such as buying a video or even a house?

Banks and other financial institutions now seem to be falling over one another to offer low-interest business loans to the self-employed. Especially good deals are available for those who are buying into acceptable franchises. Some banks are prepared even to lend £2 for every £1 the franchisee can put up.

There is also a wide range of government and European Community grants and loans, such as the Manager Services Commission's subsidy of £40 a week to help unemployed people become self-employed. In areas of high unemployment and for certain types of industry, finance may

Personal loans can be more difficult

be available from several public sources.

Yet despite the easier access to advice and finance to set up in business, becoming self-employed can sometimes make it more difficult to get credit for personal purposes. If you are considering giving up secure employment to go it alone, it is one of the factors you must take into account.

The self-employed, like everyone else, sometimes need

On your own and looking for credit

credit to buy a house or car, or go on holiday.

Banks, building societies and credit card companies do not usually discriminate directly against the self-employed, but they expect to see more evidence of income and are particularly cautious with people who have not long been in business.

Difficulty in getting a mortgage is a common complaint. If you already have a mortgage, your change in circumstances will not affect this, provided you continue to meet the payments. But if you want to increase your mortgage or take out a new one, the situation is more complex.

Paid employees can use their previous year's income as a basis for the mortgage calculation, but the self-employed are usually expected to provide tax accounts for at least the previous three years.

This can cause problems for those people who have only recently become self-employed or who have had a drop in income during one of the past three years.

A Halifax Building Society spokesman said: "We try to be as flexible as possible. We do not necessarily take the lowest of the previous three years as the income basis or refuse people who have been self-employed for less than that. But in these cases we would

usually contact his or her accountant. The likely future performance of the business is as important as its past performance."

A spokesman for the National Westminster Bank said: "Clearly we want to be sure the applicant has the income he claims and is likely to continue at an income of that level. I know it makes it a bit more difficult for someone who has only recently started in business, but I'm sure his application would be considered sympathetically if he has evidence from his accountant and business advisers about the viability of the enterprise."

"If he is an existing bank customer, the bank manager will know his circumstances and might already have arranged business finance credit. It is up to the individual manager."

A Lloyds Bank spokesman said: "We welcome applications from everyone, self-employed or not. But we would not be too happy about giving large loans to a new self-employed customer without a considerable amount of reliable information about both his past earnings and likely future earnings."

If you have been self-employed for less than three years, or if for some reason your income has dropped during those years, it helps if your

accountant and business advisers can speak for you. Becoming self-employed in an area in which you have already worked for some years is also an advantage.

Similar problems can arise if you apply for credit from credit card and finance companies. Most use credit scoring systems to assess the creditworthiness of every applicant. Points are allocated according to how long you have been in one job or lived in the same house, what other credit cards you possess and so on.

Some finance companies give self-employed applicants fewer points than those in paid employment, making it generally more difficult for the self-employed to borrow.

It is not usually difficult to get the "instant credit" advertised in shops, but you might be refused the company's credit card allowing you automatically to extend your borrowing. In any case, even if these forms of credit are more readily available, they cost much more than bank or building society loans.

If you are thinking of

Get advice from the appropriate agencies

becoming self-employed, discuss the matter fully with your bank or building society manager beforehand, as well as getting advice from your accountant and the appropriate public agencies.

And it is wise also not to make the move if you intend buying a house soon or expect to have other large personal borrowing requirements in the near future.

Eveline Hunter

Why shareholders get that junk mail

In the same postal delivery came a company's annual report and another envelope, similarly labelled, offering a timeshare scheme. It makes some people cross - they did not subscribe for privatization issues to have their names and addresses used for junk mail.

Many blame Gwyn Jones, keeper of the share registers of several privatized companies, including Amersham International, Associated British Ports, British Aerospace, British Airways and British Telecom.

"They think we are making a profit out of it but we don't, and when people write to complain I point out that we can't stop it," he says.

The direct mail touts are using (or abusing, according to your view) a section of the Companies Act requiring the registrar to make the share register available for inspection and to provide a copy at a fixed charge.

That is another sore point for Mr Jones, who as chief registrar at Lloyds Bank keeps the share, unit and loan stock registers for 590 quoted companies, a handful of unit trust groups and a sprinkling of local councils that have borrowed from the public.

Mr Jones complains: "People have the right to search a share register on paying a fee of one shilling (5p) just as it was set down in the Companies Act 1948, and the fixed charge specified for a copy of the register, which they can

demand, works out at 10p for every name and address. It's being used in a way which wasn't intended."

The Department of Trade and Industry failed to raise the charge when its own fee for share register searches at Companies House was raised from 5p to 10p.

Most companies like to be

son holding shares in several companies.

The people there tend to talk of their lives in terms of before and after British Telecom. Before BT floated there were only three million names and in 1979 fewer than 2.5 million, with a yearly fall of 5 per cent. Then privatizations brought a rev-

puter that the BT register had more Sings than Smiths.

The "back office backlog" - paperwork problems in stock-brokers' offices causing delays in settling transactions - impinges on the registrar's department, which has been partly blamed. Mr Jones points out that in 1986 his operation recorded 2.1 million transfers of shares on the registers in its care. In just the first six months of 1987 they had risen to 2.13 million.

"We are still getting paper back to the market in five or six days," he claims.

"An important element here is managing the peaks of work. Our staff has risen since privatization began from 500 to 750 but we can add 50 per cent to that when we need to because this is a strong retirement area and people have approached us for casual work. We also use employment agencies."

"With the recent spate of rights issues and the heavy amount of take-over activity, we've been kept pretty busy. We developed the custodial trusteeship concept, which enabled privatization issues to be made with arrangements for payments over an extended period. On the TSB second payment call we were opening between 250,000 and 300,000 envelopes a day.

"This place is a bit of a paper factory, really."

John Roberts

UNIT TRUST PERFORMANCE

Value of £100 as at January 1, 1988

Value of Shares at End of 1995			
THE BEST			
One Year	Three Years		
Guinness Mahon High Inc	159.8	FS Balanced Growth	334.1
Manulife UK Smaller Co	158.9	Guinness Mahon Recovery	287.8
Wellington Income	142.9	Key Income	277.8
Key Income	142.3	TRI Special Opps	275.5
Sun Life Managed Income	142.1	Arrowlight	253.1
Royal Trust Prof Share	141.2	Britannia Arrow Japan	252.9
Growth UK Smaller Cos	139.8	NM Schroder Jap Smll Co	248.4
Growth UK Smaller Cos	138.4	Henderson Smll Cos Div	244.1
Temple Bar United Sec	133.0	Fidelity Special Sit	238.1
Glen Income	132.6	Guinness Mahon High Inc	232.4
Average	108.9	Average	158.8
THE WORST			
One Year	Three Years		
Henderson Euro Smll Co	57.1	Fidelity Amer Spec Sits	68.1
Target Euro Spec Sits	56.4	Abbey US Emerg Cos	67.8
NM Brit Euro Smll Cos	56.0	Henderson American Rec	66.0
Fidelity Australian	55.1	Henderson Amer Smll Cos	65.5
SG America	53.8	NM Schroder Sing & Malay	62.4
Dumenil French Growth	52.1	Henderson Sing & Malay	61.2
Royal Trust Port H K	49.6	Sentinel American Tech	58.8
NM Brit Hong Kong Perf	48.3	Canada Growth	48.0
NM Brit Aust Growth	38.2	NM Britannia Aust Gwth	42.6
Target Australia	31.6	Target Australia	25.8

Offer-to-bid basis, net income reinvested Source: Planned Savings

This advertisement does not constitute an offer or invitation to subscribe for any shares.

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POST CODE _____



Portfolio

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 27).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
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BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME

Invest with the leader

Lazard Brothers has launched The Ninth Lazard Development Capital Fund, its final BES fund for the 1987/88 tax year.

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raised by any manager of approved BES funds — and investments have been made in 54 companies. In the last tax year, Lazard Brothers raised and invested £8.5 million under the BES, which represented more than 25 per cent of the total money raised through approved BES funds.

To obtain further details of the Fund, please telephone Jane Lamont on 01-588-2721 or send her the coupon below.

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The application list will close on 8 February 1988 but may be closed earlier at the Manager's discretion.

The Ninth Lazard Development Capital Fund is a fund approved by the Inland Revenue under the terms of the Finance Act 1980 and will be managed by Lazard Development Capital Limited, a subsidiary of Lazard Brothers & Co. Limited and a member of the Financial Institutions Management and Brokers Regulatory Association.

To: Jane Lamont, Lazard Development Capital Limited, 21 Moorfields, London EC2P 2HT

Please send me a Memorandum describing The Ninth Lazard Development Capital Fund

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Lazard Brothers & Co. Limited

Dumenil ties up with EBC group

Dumenil Unit Trust Management announced this week that it had acquired EBC Amro Unit Trust Management with effect from New Year's Day.

Caroline Hobson, marketing manager of Dumenil Unit Trust Management, says it could be a couple of months before the merger is completed, during which time approval from the Department of Trade and Industry will be sought, a letter will be sent to unit holders and an extraordinary general meeting will be held.

Dumenil intends to rename five of EBC Amro's eight funds. The remaining three funds will be merged with the corresponding funds already offered by Dumenil — these are the French, UK Growth and Swiss funds.

The combined funds will increase the Dumenil range from seven to 12.

However, Mrs Hobson says Dumenil may eventually phase out the International Fund, which is only small. This fund was valued at £800,000 at the end of the year.

Mrs Hobson says that in order to unify the charges made Dumenil will increase the initial charge previously levied by EBC Amro from 5 per cent to 5.25 per cent.

The annual management fee charged by EBC Amro is 1.25 per cent on all funds. Dumenil,



Caroline Hobson: letters

on the other hand, charges 1 per cent on its French and UK Growth funds and 1.25 per cent on the rest. Dumenil has, however, already written to the trustees asking for approval to increase the fee on these two funds to 1.25 per cent.

The minimum investment level is £1,000 at Dumenil and £500 at EBC Amro. These levels will be unchanged with the exception of the three merged funds, where the minimum will be £500.

With regard to the investment management, the advisers who were used by EBC Amro will be retained for the time being, with the exception of the three funds that merge with Dumenil funds.

A number of EBC Amro employees have been transferred to Dumenil, including Keith Miles, EBC's UK fund manager. In addition, Rainer Kahrmann and Hein Coolen will join the board of Dumenil Unit Trust Management.

There will be no redundancies as a result of the takeover.

Amanda Pardoe

FAMILY MONEY/3

Case of a sad father

A recent High Court decision has highlighted the fact that no tax relief is available for parents who desperately need help — those with mentally handicapped children. But those who know their way round the tax legislation can often assist separated parents to recoup up to 60 per cent of their children's school fees.

TONY FOREMAN examines this inequitable situation

The High Court case involved a Mr Skidmore who had a mentally handicapped son. In 1980 Essex County Council arranged for the boy to attend a special school run by Mencap. Mr Skidmore had to agree to bear the cost to the council and he entered into a deed of covenant in the council's favour to reimburse its outlay, less basic-rate income tax.

Mr Skidmore would effectively bear 70 per cent of the cost and the Inland Revenue would repay 30 per cent so that the council would not be out of pocket.

Sadly, the tax legislation allows the council to recover tax withheld from payments under a covenant only if they represent "pure income profit". The payments failed this test as Mr Skidmore had received consideration from the council through the provision of the special education, and no repayment was allowed. As a result, Essex County Council is unlikely to repeat the arrangement.

This story contrasts with a

surprising decision in 1986 by the House of Lords upholding relief for separated parents who educate their children privately.

In *Sherdley v Sherdley* the parents were separated and the children lived with their father. There is not normally any tax relief for school fees but there is tax relief for court order payments. So Mr Sherdley applied on his children's behalf for a "court order". He wanted the court to order him to pay sums to his infant children, who were to be legally responsible for their own school fees.

The judge who heard the original application declined to give such an order for fear of antagonizing the Inland Revenue and bringing the whole system of consent orders into disrepute. The Court of Appeal ruled against Mr

Pragmatic solution to suit everyone

Sherdley on the grounds that the court order would not reflect the real situation. The Master of the Rolls described the idea of a child aged nine or 10 entering into a legal contract for his school fees as "cloud-cuckoo-land".

The House of Lords eventually reversed these decisions on the grounds that a refusal to give Mr Sherdley his court order unfairly discriminated against a father who had custody of his own children.

This type of court order is indeed commonly found where a father is making such payments and the mother has custody of the children, but the Lords' decision merely avoided one anomaly by creating another.

One might well think it ridiculous that separated or divorced parents can get tax relief whereas a married couple have to pay school fees out of their net income.

What it really comes down to is that the Lords reached a pragmatic solution that suited everyone (except the Inland Revenue). That is not a bad approach — after all, the financial strains that follow a marriage break-up generally arise because the husband's income has to be stretched to cover the cost of maintaining two households.

The legislators need to show similar pragmatism in introducing tax relief for the likes of Mr Skidmore.

The remedy is straightforward. There should be a general principle that parents who are required by local authorities to contribute towards the education of their children should be permitted to do so out of pre-tax income. The well established procedure for making covenanted payments to charities and similar bodies is the obvious way of achieving this.

All that the Chancellor needs to do is to amend Section 52 of the Taxes Act, which defines an "annual payment" so that covenanted payments to local authorities may qualify.

No wholesale changes to the tax legislation should be required. The existing provisions should then permit relief in Mr Skidmore's case. It is too much to expect that the parliamentary draftsman will produce such a clause in time for the Budget?

Tony Foreman is the director of personal financial planning of chartered accountants Pannell Kerr Forster

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Full first names

Tax district and reference (if known)

Address

Postcode

Signature

Date

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Your home is your fortune with NatWest

People who have a mortgage with National Westminster Home Loans Ltd now have the chance to borrow money based on the equity they have built up in their home. Under NatWest's Home Equity Loan Scheme launched this week, customers can borrow up to 80 per cent of the property value less any outstanding mortgage.

The minimum loan for which you can apply is £5,000. The loan can be withdrawn as required, but the minimum you can draw out at a time is £2,000. The period of the loan cannot exceed the term of the mortgage, and must be at least five years.

Repayment is by monthly direct debit. Every time you make a withdrawal, NatWest will calculate the repayment schedule. Interest is based on a variable managed rate, currently 12.25 per cent, and is charged only on the amount withdrawn. There are no additional fees.

The Home Equity Loan can be used for any purpose such as school fees, car purchase or expenditure on a second home.

Britain's first directory for women in business is to be published at the end of March. The *National Directory of Women's Businesses and Reference Guide 1988* has been prepared by Women in Enterprise, a voluntary organization that helps women to start their own businesses or develop existing businesses.

It will be a contact directory offering information, specialist articles and addresses and telephone numbers useful to small businesses. Women in Enterprise reports wide interest in the directory, mainly from women who wish to publicize their firms or companies.

The directory will cost £12 but will be free to Women in Enterprise members. Any losses will be underwritten by the National Westminster Bank.

Details are available from Women in Enterprise, 26 Bond Street, Walford, West Yorkshire WF1 2QP (0224 361785).

Home buyers are being offered mortgage facilities based on four times the principal income plus once a second income from the independent mortgage brokers, John Charcoal Ltd.

The facility is available on both endowment and repayment mortgages. It can be applied to loans of up to £100,000, which can represent 95 per cent of the purchase price or valuation, whichever is the lower.

The borrower does not have to pay any lender's commitment fee. However, by opting for this facility you do not get a particularly favourable interest rate. The current rate is 11.3 per cent. The other point to remember is that you may not be able to afford to borrow so much just because this facility is available — so you should think carefully first.

The Allianz Legal Protection Insurance Co Ltd is seeking to make the law more accessible to the man in the street. With this aim in mind the company's claims department has prepared a readable layman's guide to the law.

The *Law Book* covers a wide range of subjects, including aspects of the law relating to the road user, the family, accidents, consumer affairs, insurance and law and order. Every chapter includes a useful list of contacts from whom you can obtain help and advice.

The *Law Book* is published in paperback by Jordans. It will be available from February 16 at £4.95.

BRIEFING

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Thomson's Equity and Life Brokers Ltd, in conjunction with Royal Heritage, has launched a new unit-linked investment plan specifically for financing school fees. The fund uses a charitable trust and will therefore not be subject to income tax on its investments.

The minimum investment is £3,000. Plan-holders make a charitable donation of 3 per cent in addition to fund charges, which are 5 per cent initially and 1.25 per cent a year.

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LEGAL AND FINANCIAL

Entering Europe is all the rage, not least with British lawyers, but is this necessarily a good thing? asks Edward Fennell



The British institutions in foreign cities always disconcert me. When I was in Paris last weekend, for example, I found myself facing directly on to a large branch of Lloyds Bank. The result was that my coffee and croissant tasted more of the Purley Way than the Quai d'Orsay.

Of course, Lloyds is not alone. If you look hard enough, the French capital is stuffed full of accountants and solicitors whose names will be very familiar to readers of this column. Fortunately for the tourist, however, French rules do not allow them to advertise their services as prominently as the High Street banks.

For example, to reach the spacious and delightful offices of Frere Cholmeley, the solicitors, you have to make your way up several flights of a large dark staircase at 42 Avenue du President Wilson. And once there you will merely find the smallest and most discreet of brass plates.

Linklaters and Paines are even more modest. They advertise their whereabouts on a hand-written piece of paper stuck into a glass cabinet at 254 Rue de Faubourg Saint Honoré. It all looks very French, although once inside their offices you instantly recognize the touch of their Gresham Street interior decorator.

Interestingly enough the difference in office style reflects the different commercial orientation of the two firms. Linklaters, for example, has a commitment to operating all its overseas offices as "one firm with one service" and the core of its Paris work is on behalf of London clients who are doing business (particularly making acquisitions) in France. As partner John Simpson explained: "We're here to offer a high-quality, full service with a practical transaction-based approach. But what we're not trying to do is develop a French market as such."

Frere Cholmeley, which also has an office in Monaco, has a different approach. "With 60 per cent of our work coming from international litigation we are not a branch of London. We're more like a twin," said German-born partner Timm Reindinger, who has French, German and American partners - but no English - on his team.

The contrast between the Linklaters and the Frere Cholmeley approaches is a simple illustration of the fact that "going international" means different things to different people. And this was confirmed over at Clifford Chance (the English

Aimez-vous Peckham?

firm with the largest number of overseas offices), where the partners have pursued a policy of integrating themselves into the local scene and work for many French clients on purely French business.

Despite the differences in motivation, however, the clear fact has emerged that to stay in the big league you need to develop a strong international dimension.

This was underlined a couple of months ago when, at last, a bridgehead into Tokyo was opened up by five firms of London solicitors. As Lindsay East of Richards Butler (one of the five) pointed out: "We were aware that an increasing amount of underwriting had a Japanese connection so Tokyo was a sensible place to go. Our office in Hong Kong has been extremely valuable for us. We hope that Tokyo will be the same."

Richards Butler enjoys a strong reputation in aviation and now considers that, by being among the first into Japan it has gained a significant advantage. Mind you, it will take time. "We don't expect to get a return in much less than two years," said Lindsay East. "We're regarding it as a long term investment."

Accountants of course have been operating on the big international scene for many years, and the birth last year of the mammoth Klynveld Peat Marwick Goederder (600 offices and 5,000 partners in almost 120 countries) is perhaps only the most dramatic example of a trend which is now separating out the real heavyweights on the British scene.

Of course, the two challenges faced by these enormous professional firms is how they should govern themselves and how they should project a distinctive image. A variety of arrangements is possible, ranging from federations and associations to so-called single firms. And amidst all this the question of the location of the main or head office can be vital. KPMG, for example, is now based in its new international office in the World Trade Centre in Amsterdam.

However, it is quick to insist that this will never become an international headquarters.

"We're basically an association of national firms committed to the same high standards and operating as one worldwide organization to serve multinational clients," said British-born Michael Speers, the KPMG administration and finance director. "But we're not one firm and we value the individual identity of our national member firms."

This view was endorsed by Gilbert Germeroth, the German partner who is regional executive for western Europe (excluding the UK). "Our clients have benefited enormously from the creation of KPMG," he said. They get greater depth, wider geographical coverage and more specialists - for example, we can assemble very high-powered teams overnight.

"But the important feature about KPMG is that the international office cannot instruct member firms what to do. There is a basic agreement to co-operate and we try to persuade people to adopt certain policies, but I have no power to compel them to do so."

The strong sense of individual identity within individual national firms may create problems for KPMG in some parts of the world but these are accepted on the grounds that local loyalties can be very powerful.

Arthur Andersen, on the other hand, has always taken a different view of these matters. There, the sense of being a single, co-ordinated global organization is much stronger. Through its worldwide training centre near Chicago, its adoption of English as the single business language, and the use of a common methodology, Arthur Andersen is able to achieve an extraordinary degree of standardization.

The result, says Guy Barbier from the international headquarters in Geneva, is that Andersen can offer a uniform level of excellence everywhere. "We are a union of like-minded people who think straight, and talk straight and just get on with our work without worrying about what other people might be doing," comments Barbier with a touch of Gallic as it is Andersen.

So the more the world becomes a "single market" the more accountants and solicitors will unite to fill it. But if Paris ends up looking like Peckham will the price turn out to have been too high?

Law Report January 9 1988

Power to dismiss school governors

Regina v Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustees, Ex parte Mars and Another Before Mr Justice Simon Brown [Judgment December 16]

The dismissal from office, by the trustees, of two of the foundation governors of a voluntary aided secondary school within the maintained sector whose conscientious discharge of their role thwarted the trustees' policy was not *Wednesbury* unreasonable (11948) 1 KB 223 and was a legitimate use of their power.

The combined effect of sections 4(3) and 8(5) of the Education (No 2) Act 1986 gave the trustees an unrestricted power to appoint a majority of the school's governing body sympathetic to their policies. The trustees were entitled not only to have a policy, provided it always conformed with the trust deed, but also to use their statutory powers to secure its implementation.

Mr Justice Simon Brown said in the Queen's Bench Division in dismissing an application for judicial review by Mr D. J. Mars and Mrs Fynn, two of the founding governors of the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, to quash the decision of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustees on September 14, 1987 when they were removed from office for obstructing a plan by the trustees to rid the school of its sixth form as part of a scheme of reorganization of secondary school education.

Section 114 of the Education Act 1944 provided: "Foundation governors means, in relation to any voluntary school, governors appointed... for the purpose of securing, so far as practicable, that the character of the school as a voluntary school is preserved and developed, and, in particular, that the school is conducted in accordance with the provisions of any trust deed relating thereto..."

Mr Francis Bennion for the applicants, Mr James Goadie, QC and Mr Andrew Thompson for the trustees.

government for such a school shall provide - (a) for such number of foundation governors as will lead to their outnumbering the other governors..."

Section 8 provided: "(5) Any foundation governor of a voluntary school... may be removed from office by the person... who appointed him."

Clause 11 of the 1914 Trust Deed provided: "...the governors shall in their absolute management of the school... have power from time to time to make regulations with respect to... admission ages..."

The Vaughan School's instrument of government provided for the governing body to consist of 11 foundation governors "appointed by the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster."

Under article 3(6), the instrument provided: "The body by whom a foundation governor was appointed may at any time serve on that governor notice in writing determining his term of office..."

The applicants' challenge before the court was that the dismissals were not reasonable because they were effected so as to impose the trustees' plan upon a governing body who had rejected the plan and who alone had the responsibility in law for determining the character of the school. They argued that the dismissals by the trustees improperly usurped the function expressly placed by Parliament upon the governors.

Further, they submitted that where, as here, statutory functions were placed upon a certain body of persons, it was intended that they should be exercised in accordance with the free judgment of those persons, without coercion from any other body.

His Lordship said that he accepted that the legal responsibility for determining the character (including the age range) of the school lay squarely upon the governing body and not upon the trustees. Furthermore, the role of the foundation

governors was an independent statutory role, not to act merely as agents or cyphers for the trustees but rather to arrive at their own individual conclusions upon the best interests of the school - with regard to the trustees' own views and advice upon the wider context of Catholic education.

His Lordship, while rejecting the respondents' contention that they were entitled to "require" the foundation governors to comply with their wishes, said that it did not follow that the trustees were bound to leave them in office. It was one thing to say that governors, while in office, had the sole legal responsibility for the character of the school and had to vote for what they believed to be its best future interests, but quite another to say that they were therefore immune from removal from office by trustees concerned to replace them with others of different conviction.

His Lordship said that he did not accept the respondents' submission that it was the duty of the foundation governors to support the trustees' policies even if they honestly believed them to be mistaken and contrary to the foundation's best interests and therefore did not hold that the foundation governors were in breach of duty. It would not be reasonable to remove governors in order to replace them with others prepared to implement a policy designed to benefit other schools at the expense of the foundation in question, however beneficial it might be regarded by the trustees overall.

Merely because trustees acted as such in respect of a number of different foundations did not entitle them to appoint governors with a view to disadvantaging a particular school in the general interest; that would offend section 144 of the 1986 Act expressly entrusting the management of the school to them.

Solicitors: Peach, Grey & Brown, Salisbury; Witham Weid.

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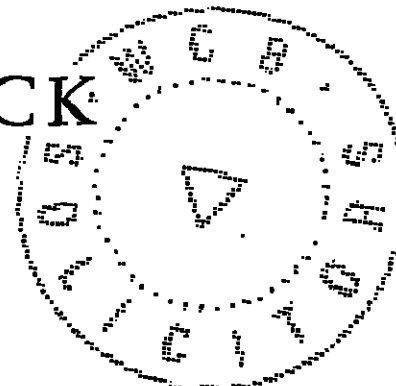
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SKIING: BRITAIN'S TOP DOWNHILL RACER IS CAUGHT UP IN A GAME OF FAMILY FORTUNES WITH A BROTHER BACK TO FORM WITH A REBUILT KNEE

Bells are coming closer together

Val D'Isère
Martin Bell, who finished sixth in the opening downhill last season, is not merely looking at the 20 or so competitors currently ranked ahead of him. He is looking over his shoulder at someone coming up behind him. His younger brother, Graham.

Three years ago, when Graham took the silver medal in the world junior championships at Mafate when 18 — a superior skier than Boyd, the young Canadian who is favoured for next month's Olympic title — it was the younger Bell who was capturing public attention.

A serious knee injury, followed last year by the grafting of plastic to replace a severed cruciate ligament, threatened to put him out of the sport. With enormous determination, he has been hauling his way back towards the top.

"It really is coming back, I think," he said yesterday, as we sipped a welcome hot chocolate halfway up the Bellevue Rock during an

interval between the first and second final training runs for today's race, switched from snowless Garmisch. "By the end of the season, I'd like to be inside the top 60."

In less than two months of the new season Graham has cut his ranking from 150 to 101. In yesterday's first run, off a starting position of 83, he finished 67th. In the second run, he was 59th, a fraction over three seconds behind the leader, Peter Mueller of Switzerland, last year's world champion. An indication of the fluctuation in this sport of fractional margins is that Bill Johnson, the 1984 Olympic winner, is flourishing some 20 places below Graham Bell.

A few days ago, Graham, 22 this month, beat his brother, 24 next December, for only the second time. Competing in the Belgian Championships staged here — together with the Swiss, American and French teams, all anxious for practice — Graham was seventh and Martin 14th. The previous time he beat him was



Slipping back Martin Bell has lost last season's promise in the Austrian Championships just after the 1984 Olympic event.

"Until now, the problem with my recovery has been psychological, certainly in the downhill," Graham says. "Last season, in the giant slalom, I beat Martin to win the British title, but in the downhill I had this mental block. I wasn't attacking the course, just trying to get safely round the bends. It was slightly a matter of strength,

but the downhill is a matter of hunger, you've got to want to go for it."

Those close to the brothers have tended to regard Martin as the more studious and meticulous, Graham as the more spontaneous. For Martin, it has as yet been a disappointing season. The promise of last year has slipped, not helped by breaking two pairs of his better skis during training at Val Garmisch.

Graham is fortunate to be able to share the facility of Martin's specially prepared Fischer skis. "With a really fast pair," he says, "I think I can get under three seconds behind the leaders and bring my ranking down still further. I'd like, too, to get into the frame again on *Ski Sunday*, for instance, which usually means being in the top sixty."

In computer ski testing with Fischer, Graham tends to be consistently faster than Martin, who needs to be getting inside a two-second difference behind the leaders to bring his ranking down to the top 15.

Yesterday he was 2.19sec behind Mueller.

The British Ski Federation has been fortunate that Drumbule has stepped into the sponsorship hole left by the departure of gin and whisky companies. Drumbule is showing an energetic interest besides their guarantee of £300,000 over three years for the men's and women's alpine teams, they are supporting this with £200,000 on promotion, always a vital back-up if a sponsor is to get value for money.

Alistair Scottie, the Alpine Director, now has a team of eight coaches and administrators, the largest yet. The teams are also fortunate to have a three-year backing in clothing worth some £100,000 from Speedo. The balance of the alpine budget is made up by the Sports Council. A competent operation at all levels is vital for the development of younger skiers, such as the promising Morgan Jones.

David Miller

American falls for a Soviet tale of the unexpected

From Iain Macleod, Val D'Isère

If Roald Dahl ever decides he needs a plot for one of his *Tales of the Unexpected*, he could do worse than delve into this most unpredictable of all sports.

When Doug Lewis, of the United States, rose yesterday, he could scarcely have expected that by nightfall he would be out of next month's Olympic Games in Calgary — and he could blame Soviet intervention. Lewis broke his collar bone when he collided with Soviet photographer shortly before the official practice began.

The weather continues to be both saint and sinner. On Thursday, the Alpine elite moaned bitterly about the dreadful visibility and unsatisfactory piste. Yesterday they basked in glorious sunshine. "The piste was pretty good," Rob Boyd, of Canada, said. "Although fresh snow fell overnight, they've worked hard to put it in shape."

Boyd, still troubled by a neck injury sustained after a crash on the testing course at OAre, in Sweden last week, had two

disappointing runs, though Felix Belczyk, his team colleague was quickest on the first run to offer further evidence that the Olympics can expect a Swiss-Canadian dual in the downhill.

Peter Müller, of Switzerland, the world champion, headed the second run and has shown impressive form of late. The Swiss, who came here on Saturday in search of snow, turned the Belgium championship held this week into a rout.

Karl Alpgier, one of six Swiss chasing four Olympic places, feels that the cancellation of next week's race at Kitzbühel, which is now being transferred to the inferior course at Bad Kleiner, has removed any hope of a testing race before Calgary. "We had only two days of giant slalom training and two days of condition training before we came here. I would have preferred to go to OAre next weekend," Alpgier said.

The women's World Cup downhill and giant slalom events on January 15 and 16 will take place at Zinal, Switzerland.

Futuristic venue, new surface and Korean Olympic balls on trial

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Sydney

Three unfamiliar names — Flinders Park, Rebound Ace and Nassau — will be introduced to the grand slam circuit when the Australian championships begin on Monday in Melbourne. Flinders Park is the tournament's imposing, futuristic new home. Rebound Ace its new surface (polyurethane and synthetic rubber), and Nassau a Korean-made ball that had to be approved for a grand slam event as a pre-requisite to its use in the Olympics.

There has been nothing but glowing, somewhat awestruck praise for Flinders Park, where the main feature is a retractable centre-court roof built in two sections. Each weighs about 30 tons, and they move on tracks with the help of electric motors and a sophisticated control system. Inevitably, though, some players will criticize the ball, the court or both, if only from habit.

The draw for this revolutionary tournament, the first grand slam event of the year, was made yesterday. The seven players who appeared in the four grand slam singles finals of 1987 — Steffi Graf, Martina Navratilova, Hana Mandlikova, Ivan Lendl, Mats Wilander, Pat Cash and Stefan Edberg — will all compete.

The seedings predict the following line-up for the quarter-finals: Graf v Mandlikova, Pam Shriver v Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, Zina Garrison v Chris Evert, Helena Sukova v Navratilova, Lendl v Henri Leconte, Cash v Yannick Noah, Anders Jarryd v Wilander, and Slobodan Zivojinovic v Edberg.

Graf is too young to be intimidated by the evocative sound of her first opponent's name. Amy Jonsson comes from Norway and does not have a flying licence.

Given the fact that each ranks No. 1 in the world and likes playing on hard courts (though Rebound Ace is reputedly more cushioned than most of its kind), Graf and Lendl should win.

British players who were spared the chore of qualifying drew the following first-round matches: Julie Salmon v Jo Durie (they could have stayed at home for that), Clare Wood v Barbara Potter, Annabel Croft v Lea Antonoplis, Valda Lake v Nicole Provis, Sara Gomer v Sylvia Hanika, Andrew Castle v Matt Anger, Stephen Shaw v Carl Turich (from Western Australia) and Jeremy Bates v Kelly Evernden.

This week the fancied

contenders all gave Sydney's famous old New South Wales championships a miss, because they are being played on the traditional grass. The celebrities preferred to scatter about seeking practice or unofficial competition on Rebound Ace.

Navratilova and Evert, big noises in the Women's International Tennis Association, have incurred WITA fines by preferring an exhibition match to the NSW championships. Graf has been enjoying practice in Melbourne. Lendl, as usual, has been exemplary in his preparations: three weeks of practice on Rebound Ace at a tennis centre run by his coach, Tony Roche, plus sharpening match-play in exhibitions.

The exhibition matches have mostly been associated with a showbiz "happening" at a place called Sanctuary Cove. Frank Sinatra turned up (not to play tennis) with his usual posse of minders. By contrast, Lendl's minder in Melbourne for the next two weeks will be a German shepherd dog — later to join the rest of his pack in Connecticut. Even if one wanted to, it would be difficult to dislike a man who collects dogs.

A butcher's in Cook country

From Rex Bellamy

It will not have escaped your notice that Australians are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the first European settlement. We the main feature is a retractable centre-court roof built in two sections. Each weighs about 30 tons, and they move on tracks with the help of electric motors and a sophisticated control system. Inevitably, though, some players will criticize the ball, the court or both, if only from habit.

True, the Dutch had already established the coastline. So had Captain James Cook, who landed at Botany Bay and was thus the first of European millions to set foot in the vicinity of what is now Sydney Airport. But it was at Sydney Cove, now renowned for its opera house and ferry wharves, that in 1788 the first fleet put in.

That fleet deposited a woe-begone human cargo — not the most obvious seeds for a nation later to display an uncommon aptitude for cricket, tennis and other pursuits not usually associated with people caught out in their misadventures.

Lucky indeed is the modern man — for example, a correspondent — who has first climbed to Cook's monument on the

Pennine Moors and then explored the area of Cook's more distant fame. But all it takes is a good pair of legs, a seven-hour wait for a visa, a 21-hour flight and the ability to adjust from winter in Midland to an 85deg summer in Sydney.

Putting on sun-glasses for a pre-breakfast jog round the marina in Rascalters Bay is just one of those unexpected chores for which itinerant reporters must be prepared. The job was made even more satisfying than the day's work at White City, the sporting mecca of Rascalters Bay.

The message should be clear enough from the line-up for today's singles semi-finals of the New South Wales championships: Pam Shriver v Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, Patty Fendick v Helena Sukova, Christo van Rensburg v Andrei Chesnokov, and John Fitzgerald v Joey Rive.

These are good players but they are not the best in the world — and White City deserves the best because of the thrilling race it has played in the game's history. Yesterday's play was

interesting but not impressive.

The most engaging peripheral incident occurred when Sharver, making use of the permissible interval after injury, went to the dressing-room in order to have a strained groin strapped up. It would have been indelicate, Sharver explained, had the job been done in public. She returned to the court to win six consecutive games from Catarina Lindqvist.

The umpires were sheltered by flowery, fringed parasols. Spectators were very little and wished they dared to wear even less. Double-decker trains, passed by, lazily, as if affected by the heat. Virginia Wade and Sue Barker were among the television commentators, making what they could of modest entertainment.

Next year it will be different because White City will have courts compatible with those of Melbourne and will resume its obvious role as a warm-up venue for the Australian championships. Meantime, in this of all years, it means much to be back in Sydney.

CYCLING

Douce under threat from the amateurs

The spur of selection for the world amateur championship could provide an upset in today's Holdsworth National Open Cyclo-cross title race at Birmingham (Peter Bryan writes).

The man to beat will be Steve Douce, the Raleigh-Banana professional and winner for the last three years. The last time Douce was beaten in this event was in 1984, when he was pushed into second place by an amateur, Chris Young.

Young is in with an obvious medal chance again, especially if he can speed up his customary slow starting style, while another amateur, Tim Gould, of Mallock, considers that Douce is not unbeatable. Gould has struck top form recently with a particularly good victory at Nottingham on Sunday.

Douce had an easy victory in a final warm-up for the championship in Surrey last Sunday. Yesterday, he travelled to Birmingham to re-acquaint himself with Sutton Park, a good circuit with several sharp descents that will test the field of 80 riders.

Roche's team dispute is resolved by talks

By Peter Bryan

Stephen Roche and his Spanish sponsors, Fagor, have finally settled the differences which threatened to tear apart the 16-man team which also includes British professionals Robert Millar, Malcolm Elliott and Sean Yates.

Roche, the Irishman who last year won the famous triple of Tour de France, Giro d'Italia and world championship, yesterday confirmed that the month-long row with Fagor was now over.

Elliott, the 1987 Milk Race winner who had not heard formally of the outcome of the peace talks, said after a training ride yesterday: "I just hope the problems have been settled."

On Monday, all the riders, unhappy with what they considered to be unnecessary interference from Fagor, who are backing the squad at a cost of £1.5 million for the coming season — threatened to quit the team.

But at a hastily-convened

meeting between Roche, his advisers and Fagor executives in Spain on Thursday, solutions to both sides' demands were agreed.

Roche, reported to be on a two-year contract worth £400,000 annually, has been confirmed as team leader and will be responsible for the "supervision and discipline" of the squad.

His two close associates from previous teams, Frenchmen Philippe Coppel and Patrick Valcke, have been retained by Fagor, with Coppel acting as a consultant and the latter named *directeur sportif*, with the main responsibilities of preparing the team's racing programme and selecting riders for specific events.

Roche, in Dublin last night to receive a major television award, said that he accepted the agreement with Fagor, adding: "I am absolutely confident that the team will be a winner this year."



Sponsorship ahead? Admiral Woodward and crew at the launching, on board HMS Victory at Portsmouth yesterday, of the Royal Navy's assault on the Whitbread Round the World yacht race next year (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

SQUASH RACKETS

Jahangir in hunt for record

By Colin McQuillan

Jahangir Khan's ambition for 1988 is a seventh successive British Open win in April, taking him a step closer to the nine he needs to beat Geoff Hunt's record in the world's premier tournament.

His 9-4, 9-0, 9-0, dismissal of Ross Norman, of New Zealand, from the 30-minute final of *The Daily Mail* international in Jersey on Thursday evening suggested the ambition is quite realistic.

Both Jahangir and Norman have been overshadowed this season by the emergence of Jansher Khan, the 18-year-old world champion, and by Chris Dittmar, at second ranking, the former world No. 2, who after long injury has now regained third place on the international list behind the two J Khans.

Jahangir has lost seven times in succession to Jansher this season. Outside Pakistan he had not been able to reach a major final because the teenage world champion was still officially ranked three in the world until this month and they fell into the same semi-finals whenever Norman, at second ranking, played. The New Zealander has been similarly blocked by Dittmar and had not reached a final in the nine months since losing to Jahangir in the French Open last season.

Jansher withdrew from the Jersey event with a flu virus and it seemed he might have to cut short his first trip home to Adelaide since the beginning of the summer. Thus Jahangir and Norman took up again the battle that had raged around the world for two seasons previously, culminating in Norman's ending of Jahangir's five-and-a-half year undefeated run in the world open final at Toulouse in November 1986.

When the New Zealander raced to a 4-1 lead in the 18-minute opening game in Jersey it seemed he might have won the chance of beating Jahangir, after losing to him four times since Toulouse. But, once the senior J Khan, now aged 24, slipped into his devastating stride, there was no hope for Norman.

Jahangir took 26 consecutive points with a display of power, racket delicacy and court coverage which indicated he is again reaching awesome fitness levels. He won the opening game, 15-0, in the second game, 15-1, and the third in three hands in the same time. Norman served only four times from 4-1 in the first game.

"I have been beach running and training on court to beat Jansher through the second half of the season," Jahangir said. "Ross played well here but I was ready for the other one."

He will be even more ready in April when his British Open record is at stake. "I am working to beat everyone at Wembley but especially Jansher."

SNOOKER

Department welcomes drug ban by governing body

By Steve Acton

The Department of the Environment, which has responsibility for sport, yesterday welcomed the news that the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) is to ban certain types of beta-blocker drugs from September.

During last April's world championship, Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, who is presently on holiday and unavailable for comment, said in the House of Commons that the use of beta-blockers by players competing in tournaments was "tantamount to cheating." This comment incensed the majority of players, beta-blocker takers or not.

The Sports Council has yet to comment on the news, having last month withdrawn their drug testing facilities and their financial subsidy from the WPBSA until it fell into line with the IOC list, which it has not yet entirely done.

Meanwhile, fresh evidence emerged yesterday to support the case of Rex Williams, who is considering legal action and has threatened to "quit" the sport if

he cannot find an effective substitute for propranolol (Inderal), which comes under the banned group.

Williams was sent last summer by the WPBSA's medical advisor to see Professor M H Lader, the Professor of Clinical Psychopharmacology at the University of London, for a second independent opinion on his situation. Williams has been taking beta-blockers for some 16 years.

In his report, Professor Lader states: "I believe it unlikely that Mr Williams is deriving any material benefit from the medication with respect to his skill as a professional snooker player. The propranolol has been given at a low dose and would have no effect on his performance. Similarly, the diazepam (valium) is a modest dose but even so any effect it might have would probably be to slightly worsen rather than enhance his skills. Accordingly, I do not believe that the medication which Mr Williams is taking is likely to affect his game."

John Spencer was one of the board members who made the unanimous decision, but he too stopped taking beta-blockers last October — and one of the banned variety — when a specialist was able to reduce the steroid dose he was taking for a muscle-wasting disease. The beta-blockers reduced the side effects of the steroids which caused the gentle Spencer to become agitated and aggressive.

Neal Foulds, aged 23, the world No. 3, had to take beta-blockers for several weeks last spring and summer to control a temporary heart murmur. He came off the drugs in the summer, but says they made him feel ill.

Yesterday he also supported Williams's case, saying: "As far as I'm concerned, beta-blockers have never been banned. I admit I'm not too qualified to judge because I'm not a doctor, but nor are other people who made this decision. The WPBSA don't know much about it really."

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BADMINTON

Hall succeeds to make most of top failures

By Richard Eaton

Darren Hall, the former national champion, became the first Englishman to reach the last four of the world grand prix final when he beat Young Vix Kei, of Hong Kong, 10-15, 15-7, 15-1, to finish top of this group in Hong Kong yesterday.

The Essex player now meets Eddie Kurniawan, the Indonesian Thomas Cup player, who was a rather controversial qualifier after Zhao Jianhua, the Chinese World Cup winner, scratched with an injured back.

Zhao's withdrawal meant that Kurniawan received a result of 15-0, 15-0 in the record books thus enabling him to go through instead of Jens Peter Nielsen, even though the Dane had beaten him.

All three leading contenders for the title are now out. Yang Yang, the world champion has influenza and was beaten by Misbun Sidek, the Malaysian, while Morten Frost, the all-England champion, retired in the final game of his match against Hall.

Hall's chances of going further, therefore, have been considerably increased and Britain also has chances in the final doubles where Billy Gilliland, of Scotland, and Gillian Gowers, of England, qualified to play Stefan Karlsson and Maria Bengtsson, the Swedish pair.

CRICKET

Outright leadership hangs in the balance

By Martin Searby

has brought them three wins from four starts.

The Northern zone is the tightest. Both Leicestershire and Warwickshire level at the top with 31 points. The former entertain Sheffield, last season's runners-up, while Warwickshire travel to bottom of the table Derby who are without a win.

Canterbury lead the Webster's Tankard table though Solihull who are currently fielding Asif Din, the Warwickshire all-rounder, and hope to have Gloucestershire Small in their team have two games in hand and are in second place.

The play-offs and finals of the competition, which is sponsored by Webster's Brewery, will take place at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham in March.

DeFreitas is to remain with Leicestershire

Leicestershire's England bowler Philip DeFreitas, who wanted to leave the county last summer, has now agreed to a new contract and is expected to sign it when he returns in March from the final leg of England's winter tour.

Several other counties were known to be interested when it looked as if DeFreitas might be leaving but after agreeing the new deal he said: "As far as I'm concerned 1987 is now history and I want to stay that way. I'm looking forward to going to New Zealand and Australia with England and to playing for Leicestershire when I get back."

DeFreitas, who will be 22 next month, stumbled from one controversy to another last summer, being dropped by both his county and England. In June he was involved in a well publicized row with colleague Jonathan Agnew, on the team's dressing room balcony.

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Southerly has race placings in a scramble

From a Correspondent

A strong southerly yesterday scrambled placings and damaged rigs in the World Jolting championship off Royal Brighton Yacht Club, Melbourne.

The 25 to 30 knot southerly hit unexpectedly while competitors were drifting around Port Phillip Bay waiting for the start of heat two, which had been postponed from Thursday, when there was not enough wind to race. The change in the wind meant that, at the 10-minute warning signal, crews were frantically changing sails for the stronger wind.

Hans Fogh, of Canada, won from Dave Curtis of the United States, the winner of the first heat, with Thomas Gough of West Germany, third. Glyn Charles, of Britain, was eighth and Chris Law 11th.

The breeze steadied down to an ideal 12 to 15 knots for heat three in the afternoon, when the Dane, Jens Bank, won from Hans Jarnel, of Sweden, with Curtis third and New Zealand's Russell Courts fourth. Law was 12th and Charles 32nd. With protests to be heard, Curtis was the provisional points leader.

Gatting to carry on following apology at Lord's

By Ivo Tennant

Mike Gatting will fly to New Zealand next Wednesday in the knowledge that his position as England captain is as secure as it was before his row with Shakoor Rana, the Pakistan umpire, at Faisalabad.

The Test and County Cricket Board, announcing yesterday the outcome of their inquiries into the Pakistan tour, said that Gatting had apologized for his conduct. The board told Gatting that further dissent would not be tolerated and said yesterday that England's tour manager in New Zealand would be able to enforce an ultimate sanction of sending a player home.

Raman Subba Row, chairman of the TCCB, said he personally took the decision to award England's touring party a bonus of £1,000 per player. "Most of my colleagues were against it and I am prepared to accept their criticism. I accept it would have been better if any decision had been made in consultation with the Board

after the tour. But I had never seen such an unhappy bunch of players before. There was no disguising they were under immense provocation."

Gatting and Mickey Stewart, England's team manager, gave the TCCB assurances at the first of two meetings of its executive committee this week that dissent would not occur again. Gatting said he hoped to continue as England's captain and that he had learned from the row. The TCCB accepted that the circumstances were exceptional and that Gatting's response to Shakoor Rana was after "undoubted provocation in the field". Yet the committee reaffirmed the Board's strong views on dissent.

Subba Row said he was "very disappointed" by the "failure" of General Butt, president of Pakistan's Board, to resolve the dispute between Gatting and the umpire. Subba Row believed that even belatedly, Rana would apologize to Gatting. "I had

six meetings with General Butt, but no apology was forthcoming, only a totally inadequate expression of regret." General Butt had twice promised on the telephone to resolve the differences "fairly and equitably". The text of an apology had been agreed but when the paper arrived it had been altered.

"It is fair to say relations with our counterparts in Pakistan are still cool," said Subba Row. "We want to take up with them why they did not use the accredited umpires for the World Cup in the Test series." The TCCB claim, Pakistan infringed rules in not giving proper notice of appointment of umpires to England's manager.

On January 20 the TCCB will discuss whether neutral umpires should be used in Test cricket. Subba Row said the Board has, as yet, no policy on the issue but that if a country touring England requested neutral umpires, they should be granted. Discussions on umpiring will continue in Australia at the end of the month.

Later this year the TCCB will hold discussions with the Pakistan Board as to future tours between England and Pakistan. The TCCB have decided not to stage any further tours to a country directly after that country has been to England, or vice versa.

The TCCB reiterated that they would not allow the use of microphones on the field of play in England, as they were in Pakistan. "I am sure the manager and captain will ensure they know what is going on in New Zealand," said Alan Smith, the TCCB's chief executive.



Lord's judges: Alan Smith (left) and Raman Subba Row

Moxon to go despite bereavement

Marty Moxon is to go ahead with his winter tour plans, despite the sudden death of his father-in-law. The Barnsley-born Yorkshire batsman will join the England party flying to New Zealand next Wednesday.

Moxon's international career has been blighted by tragedy. He returned home

from two previous England tours — once when his father Derek became ill, and again when he died.

His family have urged him to join his England colleagues as arranged.

Moxon, who has just been offered a new four-year contract with Yorkshire said: "My family have encouraged

me to go and do well despite this terrible news just before I fly out. My father-in-law was a big fan and he would have wanted me to do it."

"I'm going to take full advantage of this make-or-buy tour. I want to make my mark and secure a regular place in the squad. My future career could depend on this very important series."

Green belt facility up for sale

Priests Hill, the 90-acre publicly-owned sports ground in Surrey which has been deserted for nearly six years, has been put up for sale by its owner, the London Residuary Body.

The sports ground, in Ewell, has been the centre of controversy ever since *The Times* revealed last June that the facilities, which were last used in 1982, were becoming dilapidated.

Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, and his predecessor, Richard Tracey, the MP for Sutton, both visited the site, which consists of 30 hard tennis courts, 18 football pitches, nine cricket pitches, athletics facilities, three pavilions and two houses. The Sports Council launched an inquiry into the wasted acres, and the Central Council of Physical Recreation demanded action.

Debenham Tewson and Chinnocks, the international property advisers who are acting for the LRB, said yesterday they hoped for a quick sale to bring the area back into use as a "major leisure facility".

Peter Braithwaite, a director, said: "Our instructions are to sell the whole ground to one bidder, but we will consider bids for parts of it particularly as this may bring in more money."

Any major housing development would be impossible because the site is in green belt, but David Denton, the Recreation Officer of the Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, said: "We would not rule out a hotel in part of the ground so as to release capital for the rest of the site. We are not fussy who acquires it. The important thing is that Priests Hill is retained as an open space, particularly as the land was purchased for this purpose. It is a nice green lung."

Adrian Stoutebridge, a well-known tennis coach, is to put in an application for eight acres, including 10 of the present 30 tennis courts and one of the dilapidated pavilions. During a month-long reopening of the ground last August, Stoutebridge ran a popular tennis clinic for local children.

Davis in no mood to take prisoners

By Steve Acteson

Steve Davis, the defending champion, was in merciless mood as he swept into a 6-1 lead over Steve Newbury, ranked 45th in the world, in the semi-final of the Mercantile Credit Snooker Classic in Blackpool last night.

Newbury, aged 31, reached his first major semi-final by defeating Terry Griffiths, 5-4, in Thursday's quarter-final, but he had little answer to Davis's awesome play in the first session in their best-of-17-frame match.

The world champion moved steadily towards his tenth major ranking tournament final in two seasons and a half. Of those, Davis has lost only once, to Joe Johnson in the 1986 world final, and this season he has already pocketed two ranking titles.

A break of 34 was enough to give him a scrappy opening frame, and runs of 32, 30 and 48 put him 3-0 ahead before

Newbury registered his only success by winning frame four, 30-36. "I am grateful to have served only to hasten Davis's resolve, and he lashed home successive breaks of 74 and 105 in the next two frames while denying Newbury a single point. He then took the last game of the session, 30-30.

John Parrott, seeded thirteenth, took a 4-3 interval lead over Tony Knowles, seeded seven, who he has beaten on three previous meetings.

Three mistakes by Knowles gave Parrott the sixth frame from 42-24 down, and he went on to complete breaks of 39 and 32.

RESULTS: Thursday, Quarter-finals: S. Davis (Eng) vs S. Newbury (Wales), 6-1. Frame scores: (Davis) 35-34, 38-70, 25-58, 64-24, 74-17, 70-42, 30-36, 35-38, 68-0, 105-0, 60-30, J. Parrott (Eng) leads A. Knowles (Wales), 4-3. Frame scores: (Parrott) 10-72, 15-57, 64-54, 109-15, 67-34, 42-72, 3-40.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Chance for Collins

Tom Collins, of Leeds, received confirmation yesterday that he will be challenging for the IBF world light-heavyweight title on February 20. Frank Warren, the promoter, has reached agreement with the management of Charles Williams, of the United States, for a bout in this country and the venue will be announced next week.

The only problem is that the British Board is involved in a row with Warren over the IBF. The Board is threatening to withdraw his licence if Tony Sibson's middleweight title bout with Frank Tate on February 7 is over 15 rounds, rather than 12. Collins, aged 32, a professional for 11 years, won the European title in November with a knockout victory over Alex Blanchard, of The Netherlands.



Kalhan: secondary role

Ealham back

Alan Ealham, the former Kent captain, is returning to lead the county's Second XI this summer and will also help Colin Page with some of the coaching. Ealham captained Kent for three seasons leading the side to the Benson and Hedges Cup and County Championship in 1978 before retiring at the end of the 1982 season.

School's out

Seoul (AFP) — More than 12,000 students will take part in the opening and closing ceremonies at the Seoul Olympics, the South Korean education ministry said yesterday.

A rally which has lost its way

Paris (Reuters) — Bitter complaints about the dangers and difficulties being faced by competitors in the Paris-Dakar Rally have brought an intervention by Jean-Marie Balestre, the chairman of the International Federation of Motor Sports (FISA).

The powerful Balestre said he wanted a meeting in Paris, as soon as the rally ended on January 22, to iron out problems before the competition officially becomes part of the international circuit next year.

"The Dakar must be given back its vocation as a human adventure open on an equal basis to all competitors," Balestre said. "This year the organizers have departed from the original philosophy of the test by transforming it into a veritable speed sprint."

He said the amateur competitors had no chance of keeping up with the factory-sponsored cars, backed up by teams of mechanics and air-lifted supplies, and found themselves driving late into the night to stay in the race, then trying to do their own repairs.

"The amateurs make up the great majority of the entrants," Balestre said. "But from the start, the dice were loaded."

Only one-third of the 603 starters were left in the rally after four days in the Sahara and competitors blamed the grueling conditions for a series of accidents and the high number of retirements.

"The race is impossible," said Jacky Ickx of Belgium, the former Formula one driver, whose Lada crashed in the desert. "Wednesday's stage was unbelievable. It was mathematically impossible for many drivers to get to Tamarasset before nightfall."

The Belgian motorcyclist, Andrei Malherbe, was Wednesday's most serious casualty, suffering a broken neck. He is in a Paris hospital, where a spokesman said yesterday that they would know in the next few days if the triple world moto-cross champion would be paralysed.

Night runs are officially banned on the rally for safety reasons. But on Wednesday's stage of 987 kilometres, from Bord-Omar-Dris to Tamarasset, motorcyclists set off long after dark and were unable to finish the course before nightfall.

"We all left well after sunrise with just one thought in our minds: to finish in daylight. So we went too fast and there were a lot of accidents," said Jean-Claude Olivier, leader of a Yamaha team.

Rally organizers called yesterday's stage, a 742km desert stretch nicknamed the "Hell Trail", and closed as one of the hardest in the 22-day event, because a shortage of helicopter fuel made it impossible to monitor the race from the air. It restarts from Djado today.

Competitors have criticized the heavy commercialization of the rally and this year's course, devised by organizer Rene Metge, 85 per cent of which is over new ground.

The increasing domination of the event by heavy machinery, such as Peugeot and Mitsubishi, has prompted speculation that private entrants will be squeezed out of future rallies by the big-budget works teams.

"With seven back-up trucks and 62 mechanics, Peugeot is fielding an army," said Ickx. "Is this really the spirit of the Paris-Dakar?"

Muller's tale of joy



The jam on the Swiss roll: Peter Muller, the world champion, shows his country's form in setting the fastest time on the downhill training run at Val d'Isere yesterday. Report, page 34

Mills searches in vain for words of comfort

By Clive White

Kenny Dalglish has not taken kindly to the rest of the first division trying to gang up on Liverpool to prevent them carrying off the League and FA Cup double. But he did not think that anything Mick Mills, the Stoke City manager, has learned from his informant will stop the march of his red army in today's FA Cup third round tie at the Victoria Ground.

"He can talk to whoever he wants but unless he talks to the people concerned he has not got any idea at all what is going to happen. Even those people involved at Liverpool do not know what is going to happen," Dalglish said. It sounds as though Stoke had better prepare themselves for another off-the-cuff performance from England's outstanding team.

For Stoke's sake I hope the phone calls which Mills said he had received from several first division managers was more revealing than my own inquiry along those lines. Most of the managers I spoke to did not believe that there

FA CUP

was any part of Liverpool's game that was vulnerable.

Should Stoke discover, or more like stumble across, that Achilles heel there will be a whoop of delight from more than the other 63 cup contestants. If Liverpool repeat their double triumph of two seasons ago and English clubs are readmitted to Europe next season, England will not be sending her best to compete in the two premier competitions.

Liverpool are banned for a further three seasons in which they qualify beyond the end of the overall English ban. And UEFA have already insisted that they will not accept a reserve for the European Cup even if there is a precedent for beaten Wembley finalists competing in the Cup Winners' Cup.

Mills, who won an FA Cup winners' medal while with Ipswich Town, concedes that no amount of outside help is going to be enough to beat

Liverpool. "It's all down to our ability to stop them doing what they like," he said. At least Mills, who said that he would have liked longer after the busy holiday period to prepare for such an important game, will have the tangible support of Talbot, a fellow Wembley winner. Talbot, who is captain, has recovered from a bout of tonsillitis which forced him to miss last week's upturning 4-1 defeat of Bradford City.

Mills' and Talbot's former club will no doubt have the moral support that all underdogs enjoy when they take on Manchester United in the televised game tomorrow afternoon. It appears that more than just the team has changed since the days when Ipswich fought Liverpool all the way to the finish in the

Villa live

The second division promotion clash between Middlesbrough and Aston Villa is to be shown live on ITV's Big Match on Sunday, February 14.

championship. Their once proud playing surface was described as a "bit of a bog" by Alex Ferguson, the United manager, who will take another look at it today and tomorrow before deciding on his team.

Ipswich, six points behind the second division leaders, are nursing dreams of a return to those heady days.

Ron Atkinson, another man more used to caviar than fish and chips and who knows more about what makes an FA Cup winner tick than any other modern-day manager, described his current charges, West Bromwich Albion, as the "worst prepared" side he has ever assembled in the competition.

The not unlikely absence of one of football's most battle-scarred performers, Andy Gray, this time suffering from influenza, has thrown Atkinson's tactical plan out the window for the tie against Wimbledon at Plough Lane. Gray was to have played in midfield. "The competition is supposed to be about upsets, isn't it?" Atkinson asked.

Cup sponsorship plan still has supporters

By Dennis Sigary

The prospect of sponsorship for the FA Cup competition after 125 years still looms large as 64 clubs compete in the weekend's third round games.

Although opinion in the association is divided on the question, some against sponsorship by a brewery, others against the tainting of the competition by sponsorship money would have been spent on prizes for the competing clubs.

The FA, who plan to make this year's Cup final in May and England's World Cup qualifying match against Sweden at Wembley next October the centrepieces of their 125th anniversary celebrations, are still talking about sponsorship of what is acknowledged as the most prestigious and glamorous competition in soccer.

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Warren's \$1m Bruno bait

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Frank Warren, the London promoter, stepped in yesterday with a \$1 million offer to Frank Bruno after reports that the world No. 1 heavyweight challenger is dissatisfied with his earnings from the bout with Joe Bugner last October and could be contemplating a break with Terry Lawless, his manager.

According to the report, Bruno could be close to a "bust-up" with Lawless, "even though it might wreck his hopes of fighting Mike Tyson at Wembley in June".

It is believed that Bruno, who had been promised £750,000 for the Bugner bout, finished

up with less money than the £300,000-plus Aussie Joe walked off with.

Lawless immediately denied that there was any trouble between him and Bruno, claiming that they had signed a new three-year contract, but Warren said: "I don't know if these rumours are true but I have sent a telegram to Lawless today saying that I am prepared to pay Bruno \$1 million for his challenge for Mike Tyson's title and will be offering Tyson \$5 million."

When reminded that it was hardly likely that, after five years of careful matchmaking,

Lawless and his group of promoters would hand it all over to him, Warren replied: "Why not? I am a promoter and it is a great event. I could even win the right to stage the fight if it went to pursue others."

Meanwhile, among the guppies, Terry Marshall, the former world light-welterweight champion, swam back into troubled waters. In an article in *Boxing News* he refuted claims made by Warren, his former manager, that he had about the epilepsy that forced him to retire from boxing and payments for contests.

I would like to see a round table conference between the chief medical officers and medical advisors of the three world boxing bodies to reach a firm agreement on this crucial issue. At the moment this does not seem possible, but we have to get our act together.

My own feeling is that if television companies were happy with 12 rounds then everyone would adopt the format. I fear that 15 rounds is a commercial proposition and, with respect, those who decide have not, necessarily, got the interests of the boxer at heart.

The case against 15-round contests

The British Boxing Board of Control's decision this week to oppose a proposed 15-round world title bout involving Tony Sibson highlighted the debate over safety in the sport. Dr Adrian Whitson, Chief Medical Officer to the BBCB, puts the case for shorter contests

As far as the British Boxing Board of Control and I are concerned, the health of the boxer is paramount. When the matter of safety in the sport is discussed, it should always be remembered that the only person really involved is the boxer and not me, the administrators or the promoters.

Reducing the number of rounds in a contest is a step towards securing better standards of safety and, if future research reveals more, the length of a bout could be dropped even further.

Many years ago boxers fought until they dropped. Then the authorities reduced the number of rounds in a bout to 20 and then, to 15. Professor Corbetta, a neuro-pathologist, brought out a paper where he revealed that boxers had changes in the brain which he attributed to the punch-drunk syndrome. He commented that if the number of contests and the number of rounds for a boxer were reduced, then the chances of this happening are also reduced.

Whether you drop the length of fights down to three rounds or not, it makes little difference as far as deaths in the ring are concerned. As in any contact sport there will always be fatalities. The object of reducing the number of rounds is to lessen the chances of getting accumulated brain damage, and not to stamp out the threat of fatal accidents.

Most English boxers fight for only six, eight or, if they get up to championship level, 10 or 12 rounds. The jump from eight to 15 rounds is enormous.

Boxers may think they are fit enough to box for 15 rounds but sparring is completely different from fighting in the ring.

Two major problems arise from being involved in a long, grueling fight. Sportsmen dehydrate as a contest continues but a boxer, unlike others, is unable to rehydrate because any blow to the stomach would cause him to vomit. When a man dehydrates the muscle volume shrinks, making him more likely to get fatigued, and the brain substance also shrinks.

The brain is a jelly substance inside a bony structure and if you take a punch, the brain rotates against its case. If the brain has shrunk even minimally the rotational force increases.

Tiredness is another important factor to be considered. The boxer relies on reflexes, the ability of his eyes and limbs to coordinate. As a bout lengthens, the boxer is less able to avoid punches.

Some argue that as boxers tire so the number and power of the punches are reduced, but the number of punches landing on target will always increase. It is very difficult to quantify scientifically, but on past experience and research we know that fatigue increases and the boxer is therefore at greater risk.

Some boxers are not, unfortunately, aware of the dangers they place themselves in. It is too late. It is important to remember that brain damage cannot be reversed. If Tony Sibson boxes for a world championship and gets a £1 million purse but takes that extra punch and then suffers, the money, in my opinion, will not do him any good.

The sport cannot be banned because it would simply go underground where safety precautions would be dangerously slack. A 12 round contest, we believe, provides a better answer and it does not necessarily mean the sport becomes less exciting. Indeed, there is probably more action in a reduced fight because the boxer has less time to pace himself. The spectacle is not diminished.

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